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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

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60P WHERE SOLD

FRESH TALKS IN ONE-WAY SYSTEM FIGHT

Report by Andrew Morris



Councillor Graham Breeze

Water scheme will bring jobs boost

OSWESTRY'S water treatment works is to be given a multi-million pound upgrade in a project which will also create 50 jobs.

Some £54million is being spent on completely redesigning the works.

Danny Brennan, United Utilities project manager, said: "This is a flagship scheme for us, modernising one of our most important treatment works in the North West, which supplies almost a million customers in Liverpool and Cheshire."

"It's also a really special project. We're re-designing a plant built by the engineers of yesteryear for our customers of the future. The works will continue to treat and clean water well into the next century."

The original works became operational in 1892 and have never stopped supplying most of Liverpool and parts of Cheshire ever since.

The water supply starts its journey 18 miles away at Lake Vyrnwy, where it then flows to a holding reservoir at Llanforda, before it is treated at Oswestry and travels by gravity a further 50 miles to Prescot reservoir in Liverpool.

Engineers plan to use new methods to treat the water.

Proposals are laid out to tackle yobs

NEW plans to tackle the on-going problem of anti-social behaviour in Welshpool were due to be discussed at a council meeting.

Welshpool Town Council were due to receive a presentation last night (Wednesday) from Powys County Council's Safety Partnership on what steps it can take to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

Councillors have been complaining for months that more needs to be done to tackle drinking and criminal damage in the town, along with boy racers.

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon met with councillors last year, where they aired their concerns to him.

Meanwhile, a charter working with the Polish community is being considered by the council.

The council's finance, strategy and monitoring committee recommended the town council signs up to supporting the initiative and that a designated people and place order be sought.

The council was also due to sign off plans to spend £13,500 on renovating the Puzzle Square area of town.

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Jake has plenty of spring in his step



Sion Lloyd-Davies, 16, with Jake the five-legged lamb born at Rhiwlas Farm at Llanwddyn near Oswestry

Lamb has extra leg

JAKE the lamb has more spring in his step than the other newborns on his farm.

For he was born with an extra leg at the front. But not only is his unusual appearance not hampering him, it has saved his life.

Bethan Davies, who runs Rhiwlas Farm, where Jake was born, at Llanwddyn, near Oswestry, said he will be spared a trip to the butcher and stay with her as a pet.

She said: "The plan would normally be that he would go into the food chain, but we've decided we're going to keep him as a bit of a farm mascot."

"We've named him Jake, like Jake the peg with his extra leg - we

couldn't call him anything else really." Mrs Davies said everyone at the farm was surprised when her son Sion, 16, delivered Jake.

"We had fun pulling him. It was an interesting birth," she said. "The shepherd thought it was twins with the legs all mixed up together."

"The vet said he'd never seen a live five-legged lamb, he'd only seen pictures."

"We've got a retired shepherd that's been shepherding for 50 years and he's never seen one before either."

Mrs Davies said she was delighted with how well Jake is doing, as many lambs with congenital abnormalities die early.

ELECTION

Health secretary makes promise to support patients

HEALTH Secretary Jeremy Hunt has vowed to give patients from Mid Wales a voice in Parliament should the Conservatives remain in government following the General Election.

Mr Hunt was in the region yesterday (Wednesday) to support Conservative Montgomeryshire candidate Glyn Davies.

Mr Hunt was quizzed by Joy Jones, chairman of the Newtown Patient Health Forum.

She told him that should A&E services move to Telford, people in Mid Wales could end up dying before reaching hospital. Mr Davies said: "It is a huge issue and it is vital that the 75 per cent of people in Montgomeryshire who use the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital are reassured."

Mr Hunt said: "There's a very powerful clinical case for centralising some services across the country."

"However, I promise that if myself and Glyn both get back in then Welsh voices will be heard on this case and Glyn will meet with the local CCG."

It came as Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg also visited the region yesterday to announce his claim that more than £1bn would have been taken out of the Welsh economy had the Liberal Democrats not stopped the Tory's plans for regional pay.

Mr Clegg visited Llandidloes to support Lib Dem Montgomeryshire candidate Jane Dodds.

● Round-up – See Page 18

DEVELOPMENT

Tollhouse fails to win a reprieve

THE Government has dashed hopes of a reprieve for a tollhouse in Oswestry.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has thrown out an appeal against a decision by English Heritage not to give the Gate House in Oswestry listed building status.

Members of Oswestry Town Council had hoped to protect the building on Shrewsbury Road to prevent it from being demolished to make way for a new Aldi supermarket on land nearby.

Councillor Sandy Best, who has led the fight to save the building, said she was hugely disappointed.

INSIDE

Donna is an inspiration



PAGE 2

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Amy Hughes is off on another running adventure. Find out more on Page 4.

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Oswestry Chronicle has a team of staff who can help:

Associate Editor: Iain St John
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Pam Kingsley 01691 668098
pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Oswestry and Welshpool Photographic
01691 668094

Regional sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Advertising:
Marcus Evans: 01691 668095
marcus.evans@shropshirestar.co.uk
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk
Andy Eilledge: 01691 668090
andy.eilledge@shropshirestar.co.uk
Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Branson tells of sadness at closure of balloon factory

Report by Mark Andrews

THEY pushed the boundaries of balloon travel together – and now Sir Richard Branson has spoken of his sadness at the closure of the factory in Per Lindstrand's name.

The entrepreneur and adventurer used balloons made by Oswestry-based Lindstrand Hot Air Balloons on record-breaking journeys across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

But the firm has now been placed in liquidation, bringing an end to almost 40 years of hot air balloon manufacturing in the town.

Per Lindstrand sold his stake in the company in 2003, but Sir Richard said it was a shame that his name was now no longer associated with balloon manufacturing.

Sir Richard, the founder of the Virgin Group of companies, said: "My adventures travelling in Lindstrand hot air balloons across the globe have given me some of my happiest memories.

"I'm saddened to see the company close its doors."

As well as his two ocean crossings, Sir Richard also used Lindstrand's balloons for three of attempts to circumnavigate the earth with Per Lindstrand.

Liquidators from Burton Sweet Corporate Recovery have now been appointed by the company's overall owners, Cameron Holdings Limited in Bristol, to complete the shutting down of the famous company.

However, the Lindstrand name will live on in Oswestry because Per Lindstrand now runs Lindstrand Technologies in the town, making innovative inflatable products. A statement has been posted on the Lindstrand Balloons website explaining the decision to shut the factory down, at a cost of 19 jobs.

"Hot air ballooning has become much more difficult when the regulation of balloons was passed from the British Civil Aviation Authority to the European Aviation Safety Agency," it reads.

"Badly designed rules have made ballooning much more expensive without any improvement in safety and many participants have given up."

The statement also says that the value of the pound against the euro makes selling balloons more difficult on the continent.

Donna is named inspirational mum of year



Donna Harrington with four of her children Diego, Evie, Emilie and Leighton

LLANGYNOG mother Donna Harrington has been named inspirational mum of the year.

Mrs Harrington has launched an appeal to raise £60,000 for her nine-year-old daughter Emilie – who has cerebral palsy

– to go to America for treatment to help her mobility.

Just two years ago she successfully did the same for her youngest daughter, Evie, seven, who also has the condition and is now able to walk with the help of a frame.

The mum of five said what made the award so special was that it had been her elder daughter, Olivia, 10, who nominated her.

She said: "She didn't tell me what she was doing, I know nothing about it until I received an email saying I had been short-listed."

"I am only doing what any mum would do – their best for their children."

"I just want to give them the best start in life and help them to become as independent as possible."

Olivia and her mum travelled to London at the weekend for the event, in aid of the Caron Keating Foundation.

"It was a fabulous day and we heard so many inspiring stories," Mrs Harrington said.

"I met one young girl, a beautiful little

lady who has been having treatment for leukaemia for the last two and a half years.

"She has now finally stopped and just has to go to hospital once a month for a check up."

"She is so full of life and so confident."

The patron for the Inspirational Mother Awards is Gloria Hunniford and the awards acknowledge inspirational mothers and raise money for The Caron Keating Foundation.

Caron lost her battle with cancer in 2004 and subsequently Gloria and her sons Paul and Michael set up a fund in Caron's name – The Caron Keating Foundation – which gives grants to all types of cancer charities.

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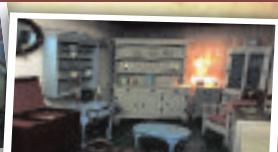
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Drink driver crashed into another car

A MAN who crashed his car into another vehicle while almost three times the drink drive limit is facing a possible jail sentence.

Michael Jones was driving on the wrong side of the road with no lights on despite it being 12.30am when he smashed straight into the front of a car being driven by Geraint Evans in Llanrhedyn Mochnant.

But rather than stopping at the scene, Jones drove off before leaving his car in a car park and going to bed.

Police officers called by Mr Evans followed scrapes in the road caused by the damage to Jones's car to find him at home in bed with his girlfriend, where he was arrested.

Jones, 27, of Bryn y Gaer, Llanfyllin, admitted charges of drink driving, dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

The court heard that when Jones was breathalysed he gave a reading of 99 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35.

Magistrates declined jurisdiction of the case. They ordered probation carry out all options report on Jones, who will be sentenced at Mold Crown Court on May 14.

Geraint Jones, for Jones, said his client had shown remorse and had pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.

Advice available at coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held on Monday to make older people aware of support available during retirement.

Care and Repair in Powys and North Montgomeryshire Volunteer Bureau have arranged the Ageing Well event at the Public Institute in High Street, Llanfyllin.

Anyone aged 60 or over is invited to join them for free coffee and cake, and a chance to find out about staying healthy, happy and safe in retirement and older age.

Other organisations taking part with information stands include the Red Cross, Powys Carers Service, Age Cymru, Wiltshire Farm Foods and Mid and West Wales Fire Service. There will also be a demonstration of tai chi at noon from Aidan Ackerman of Mid Wales Housing Association.

The Ageing Well coffee morning will run from 10.30am to 1pm.

Mayor tells of planning frustrations

OSWESTRY'S mayor has spoken out over a "frustrating" change in policies which is seeing planning applications being approved by Shropshire Council officers rather than councillors.

Councillor John Gareth Jones says the role of the elected member has diminished and has pledged that Oswestry Town Council will refocus on planning to ensure local voices are heard.

The pledge came after Aldi was granted planning permission for a new store on the town's Shrewsbury Road under officer delegated powers despite concerns from the town council. Town councillors were concerned that an ancient tollhouse will be demolished to make way for the supermarket and made an unsuccessful bid to get English Heritage to make the Gate House a listed building.

Delivering the town council report before stepping down after his year as Mayor, Councillor Jones said: "We have experienced some major planning applications that have a retail impact on the town."

"What has been frustrating is that the change in the planning decision-making process which has meant that the role of the elected member at Shropshire Council in planning has diminished with many decisions now being taken at officer level."

"In exercising our frustration over a certain application recently we even called for a Listing of a property from English Heritage."

"It is clear that in the months ahead we need to refocus on planning, particularly with the significant local interest that is now being generated in some major local issues."

No decision on hillfort 'until after election'

Report by Pam Kingsley

CAMPAGNERS fighting moves to allow development at the foot of an historic Iron Age hillfort say they are not expecting to hear a decision until after the General Election.

Members of the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort group, or HOOOH, say they have been told housing development blueprints would appear by around the middle of February for final consultation, but after delays they have now been told it won't be available until "at least the end of April".

Planning Inspector Claire Sherratt is currently looking at the SAMDev proposals, Shropshire Council's development blueprint to 2026. The plan includes development OSW004, which would put a housing development into the fields around the hillfort.

John Waine, spokesman for HOOOH, said: "It's fair to say that we are very disappointed with the delays in the modified SAMDev plan. From the point of view of HOOOH's campaign, now coming up to two years, we believe that the case for removal of OSW004 is overwhelming, and we have provided clear evidence to that conclusion with growing support from all quarters."

More than 8,000 people signed a petition against the development and others have lodged objections during public consultation into the plans.

SAMDev is a plan of areas which can be developed over the next 11 years to meet projected housing needs in Shropshire. Shropshire Council has been working on the proposals for the past three years.



Campaigners oppose plans to build homes near Old Oswestry Hillfort. Photo: Jason Bingham.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crackdown appeal over town crime

ACTION needs to be taken to crackdown on anti-social behaviour and boy racers in Welshpool a councillor has claimed.

Councillor Estelle Bleivas, who serves on Welshpool Town Council, said she spent a busy Saturday night on the beat with officers in the town.

She praised the way officers dealt with incidents, but called on Dyfed-Powys Police to give the town's service more support.

"I enjoyed spending a Saturday night on the beat with the officers in Welshpool, but I do worry for the future," Councillor Bleivas said.

"They are under strain across the force area and indeed the country, but I do feel more could be done in Welshpool to help them tackle problems."

"We currently have no civilian staff in Welshpool and I think that is a problem as many other towns do."

"These guys and girls need all the help they can get in making our town as safe as possible," the councillor added.

Chance to hear from candidates

VOTERS in the Oswestry area will be able to put this year's General Election candidates on the spot at an event next week.

An election hustings will be held in Oswestry on Tuesday with all five candidates for the North Shropshire seat taking part.

The hustings has been organised by Churches Together in Oswestry District.

The election event will take place in the Methodist Church Hall in Castle Street. It starts at 7.30pm.

It will be chaired by the Rev Simon Thorburn, vicar of St Oswald's Parish Church.

Organisers are asking the public to submit questions for the candidates to answer.

Anyone with questions for the candidates can submit them via the Oswestry Christian Bookshop in Lower Brook Street.

Pitches are available

THE bookings for stallholders' pitches at this year's West Felton Carnival on July 12 are coming in "thick and fast", organisers say, but more pitches are still available.

For more information or a booking form and details of the cost call (01691) 610629. Please note it is pre-booked stalls only at the carnival.

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'Unique' circumstances led to tragedy, inquest is told

Report by Pam Kingsley

A UNIQUE set of circumstances caused the accident in which a lorry driver was crushed by a car park barrier in Oswestry, an inquest has heard.

William Ernest Barker, 68, from Rochdale, died on May 27 at the Smithfield Street car park in Oswestry town centre after the barrier came loose from where it was secured and entered his cab.

The jury of nine women and one man at his inquest last week recorded a conclusion of accidental death caused by a number of factors.

They recorded that Mr Barker, who was delivering goods to the town's Argos store at the time of the accident, died of crush injuries and traumatic asphyxia due to the wing mirror of his vehicle coming into contact with the defective and ineffectively secured open height restriction barrier at the car park.

Constable Ian Edwards, a collision investigator for West Mercia Police, said he had never seen an accident like this before.

"It's very unique. I deal with 80 to 90 incidents a year and I haven't dealt with an incident similar to this in 15 years," he said.

His investigation revealed that the wing mirror of the lorry had caught the end of the barrier and pulled it towards the cab.

"The end of the barrier arm would have been obscured by the wing mirror. As he caught it that had pivoted it into the cab," he said.

"The vehicle continued forward as the driver would have been unaware until the window has been smashed. It's likely that the driver's door would have acted as a fulcrum and the barrier had moved forward and pushed his seat forward, trapping him."

Constable Edwards said the vehicle was travelling at no more than 3mph at the time of the collision, and said the barrier was identified in the risk assessment plan for the site prepared by Mr Barker's employees Wincanton.

"It's possible in the final seconds that Mr Barker did attempt to stop his own vehicle," he added.

"We've heard he was conscious in the last second so I suspect he attempted to stop once he realised what was happening."

The inquest heard that the barrier had been damaged the week before the incident and as a result staff at Argos had been using a chain to hold it back to allow lorries to make deliveries.

Mr Barker was also having to manoeuvre around a lorry making a delivery to the next door store.

The Health and Safety Executive is investigating the accident.

A ROYAL Navy engineer has been heavily fined for dangerous driving in Mid Wales.

But it was stressed at Mold Crown Court that his driving had nothing to do with the death of a motorcyclist.

Defendant David Stone was initially arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. But he admitted a charge of dangerous driving following his earlier behaviour on the A458 Llanfair Caereinion to Welshpool road on June 1.

Prosecuting barrister Maria Massellis said a police officer witnessed Stone's driving, and followed the defendant, intending to stop him. But before he could do so, there was a crash behind him.

Radiographer Melanie Lakin, 29, of Tamworth, had been unable to control her machine and collided with a Toyota ahead of her, which was behind the police motorcycle.

She was unseated and hit by an on-coming BMW and was declared dead at the scene.

Miss Massellis said that the prosecution had given very careful consideration to the charge but there was no link between that accident and the defendant's driving.

Stone, 25, of Pant y Neuadd Caravan Park, Tywyn in Gwynedd, was fined £1,500 with £655 costs and he was banned from driving for a year. He must take an extended re-test.

Defending barrister Andrew Green stressed that the tragic accident was not connected to his client's driving.



Firefighters and ambulance crews at the scene of the fatal lorry accident in Oswestry

Probe on diet pills death

A WOMAN has died after taking diet pills she bought over the internet.

Eloise Aimee Parry fell ill after taking the pills, which were described as "toxic and very dangerous".

Police have warned women not to buy pills online after launching an investigation.

The 21-year-old died at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on April 12.

The pills are believed to contain a substance called dinitrophenol or DNP.

Miss Parry, from Shrewsbury, was a student at Glyndwr University in Wrexham and was on course to study a masters when she finished her degree.

Her family made a desperate plea to other young women to learn from Miss Parry's

mistake. Eloise's mother Fiona said she had taken the pills unaware that an overdose could kill her.

She said: "The drug was in her system, there was no antidote. Two tablets was a lethal dose – and she had taken eight. She never intended to take her own life. She just never really understood how dangerous the tablets that she took were."

"There were so many things that she dreamed of doing – travelling, having a career and having a family – things that she never got a chance to experience."

West Mercia Police is conducting an investigation into the circumstances of Eloise's death and gave a stark reminder to the public of the dangers of buying substances online.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

I've already had just about enough of the hype about next month's General Election and I wonder just how many of you feel the same way?

I've had it up to the eyeballs with empty promises from pumped up party leaders who are suddenly competing with one another to offer us just about anything they think we will fall for.

But they may be underestimating just how good our memories are as we are asked to believe each party will lead us to the promised land of untold riches and prosperity.

What I do know is that under successive Governments my standard of living has fallen and any plans for retirement have been wrecked by changes to the pension laws. Unemployment may well be falling but we are all earning less and the economic failings of the last decade mean it is virtually impossible for youngsters to get on the housing ladder without the bank of mum and dad.

I've always been what they term as a floating voter without allegiances to any party and it is clearly like-minded people who will determine the 2015 election result. But what's annoyed me most is the constant leaflets dropping through my letter box, promising to change my life for ever if I vote one way or the other. One party in particular has really over-stepped the mark in Montgomeryshire, following up their constant barrage of propaganda with telephoned pleas for votes. It's just too much.

Well I've got news for you guys – this is one floating voter you just lost and judging by Facebook and Twitter chat I won't be alone.

You just have to laugh at the sheer hypocrisy of supermarket giants Morrisons who have objected to a plan for a new Lidl store on the outskirts of Oswestry.

Morrisons already has had plans granted to build on the Shrewsbury Road site but has objected to the Lidl scheme because of the effect the development would have on town centre businesses.

With Aldi also set to build just down the road it's no great secret that the town centre of Oswestry is going to take a big hit and the Chamber of Commerce is rightly concerned.

There's great irony in the Morrisons' protest but they actually do have a point. This could be one supermarket too many for Oswestry and a matter that the chamber must surely oppose.

I am constantly being told how visitors enjoy exploring the town's independent stores. It would be a great shame if it becomes only visitors that can be found in the town centre. Without local shoppers Oswestry town centre will die.



Hopes for the Chinese market – Richard Yates who farms at Middleton Scriven, near Bridgnorth



Quotas are not to blame, says Rob Newbery, NFU West Midlands director



Dairy farmers protest against lifting of EU milk quotas on the streets of Brussels

PETER RHODES

Headlines of the future. April 22, 2035. Sir John Chilcot, aged 95, announces he is at last ready to release his long-awaited report into the Iraq War but, unfortunately, cannot remember where he put it.

Let us celebrate St George's Day in true English style. Let us not wear fancy dress. Let us not sing patriotic songs, march through the streets or fly our national flag. Why not? Because those are the sort of things that foreigners do.

If we are in for a long hot summer, as some experts forecast, there will be winners and losers. The winners will be the lucky ones whose fetes and garden parties fall on long, shimmering summer days. The losers will be those poor devils whose outdoor events, carefully planned months in advance, coincide with the only downpour of the season. It is part of the British character that we respond to such things by declaring stoically: "The rain didn't dampen our spirits." Ah, but it does. Rain dampens everything and if your spirits are not thoroughly drenched then there is something seriously wrong with you. This summer, in the puddly aftermath of disappointment, let us ban all claims of undampened spirits.

Meanwhile, the war against prepositions goes on. The creeping Americanisation of English which has given us truly awful constructions such as "appeal the verdict" and "protest the decision" continues with Ed Miliband and issuing the challenge to David Cameron: "Debate me." This, from a politician who, two weeks from now, could be responsible for every state school in Britain.

Fear
The big fear for small farmers is that production will no longer be based on the amount of milk being consumed. They say that will only benefit big food companies and could lead to milk being dumped abroad.

It serves no purpose to raise production and dump milk on other countries, as is the case in Africa today, which is destroying smaller producers both in Africa and in Europe," said European Milk Board spokesman Erwin Schoepges.

The NFU is uncertain how the end of the production ceilings will play out. NFU West Midlands regional director Rob Newbery says: "With milk prices yet to show any strong signs of recovery, this could push farm gate milk prices down further in the EU, and stall any recovery in the dairy markets."

Mr Newberry says in the UK low and volatile prices have affected milk production rather than quotas. Shropshire county adviser Helen Cork says retailers will have an important role if they can be persuaded to focus more on local produce.

"I would call for retailers to stock more quality, British dairy products; butter, cheese and yoghurt and for shoppers to keep buying these alongside milk."



Cows feeding happily – but it has been a tough year for dairy farmers

Farmers Union, fears it will be a while before the tough times are over.

"There will be more casualties," he says. "There will be more farmers leaving the industry."

The quota was a response to the scandal of the so-called butter mountains and wine lakes, where farmers produced food and drink for which there was no demand just to qualify for subsidies under the controversial Common Agricultural Policy.

"Nobody likes to see quotas in place, but it was needed at the time," says Mr Yates.

The concerns have been echoed across the English Channel, where farmers are worried that lifting ceilings on milk production could lead to a free-for-all.

Dairy farmers took to the streets of Brussels to protest against the lifting

of European Union milk quotas, fearing the move will flood the market with cheap surplus milk.

Back in Shropshire, a dairy farmer from Minsterley, near Shrewsbury, who asked not to be named, said he was already struggling to stay afloat, and anything which drove the price down would be the final straw.

"It won't be a problem as long as we don't get flooded with foreign milk which will drive the price down," he says.

"The last 12 months has been horrendous, the milk price has dropped by 10p a litre. We've been running at a loss for six months now."

Despite these concerns Mr Yates, whose family has worked Manor Farm at Middleton Scriven since 1971, says that ultimately the milk quota had to go.

"In reality, the quota hasn't affected us since foot-and-mouth disease devastated the countryside in 2001," he says. "Our production has not been back to anything like pre-2001 levels, so we have been effectively able to produce as much as we like."

The quota has been scrapped in order to allow European producers to compete with US and Australian farmers, who have been targeting the burgeoning markets of countries such as China and Korea. "We're hoping the Chinese market which will be golden goose that will save the industry," says Mr Yates.

But while the quotas have been criticised, they did provide some price stability.

Fear

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Q: My daughter is 22 and on the autistic spectrum. Last summer my wife and I placed her in a Respite Home for two weeks so that we could have a holiday, but since we got back they have not allowed her to return home. She is desperately unhappy and indicates often that she wants to come home to her family. To make matters worse our visiting has been restricted by the home due, they say, to her behaviour and distress following visits. We are totally distraught. What can we do?

A: If your daughter is being prevented from returning home, or if your visits to her are being significantly restricted, then she is being deprived of her liberty. The care home manager should alert the local authority who should then, if it is necessary, authorise her continuing detention by what is known as a DoLS or Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard. If this does not happen you can, with the proper advice and assistance, compel the local authority either to issue a DoLS or to cease to restrict her liberty i.e. allow her to see you and also allow her to return home.

If a DoLS is issued and your daughter continues to be in the home and/or your visits continue to be restricted, you or she can apply to the Court of Protection to resist this. The fact that the local authority may talk about your daughter 'lacking capacity' should not prevent this. If the application is made on your daughter's behalf, legal aid is normally available regardless of her (or your) financial circumstances.

DoLS is a difficult and complex area of the law which has been subject to change recently, and the problem is that few Solicitors have expertise in it or can access the necessary Legal Aid.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Lancaster, a Partner and Solicitor Advocate of GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.com.

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"THE Palace of Westminster may have to be abandoned within 20 years unless extensive repairs and modernisations are agreed", the Speaker of the House told us recently.

He conveniently omits some salient facts which ought to be considered.

1. The country is in trillions of debt.

2. Brussels is now making the majority of British law which makes the House of Lords, the second chamber of Parliament, completely redundant.

Its eight hundred plus peers are an expense we no longer need.

Those expenses include a tax-free £45,000

attendance allowance available to each one of the 800 peers listed.

3. The 650 MPs are also surplus to establishment when you consider than every law, regulation or diktat issued by Brussels cannot be refused, delayed or altered by the British Parliament.

We continue to pay each one of them a substantial salary, a gold-plated pension and £200,000 every year in expenses, subsidies and perks.

MPs have 23 points of sale in Westminster for meals and snacks.

That includes eight bars; peers have several of their own.

13,000 staff, researchers, journalists and contractors can eat/drink in all but the most exclusive ones such as the Commons Smoking Room.

The Admin Committee is working to halve the £6 million annual subsidy by selling more souvenirs!

The fact remains that we are subsidising the food and drinks of the 1,450 incumbents of the Palace of Westminster and providing them with free parking in central London.

All should be presented with a zero-hours contract immediately!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Letters

Time to put House in order and let English rule England

THE British Isles were, for many years, ruled from Westminster. Over the decades came changes including the EU, powers have been given to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, even more power to some of our islands.

I'm happy with this but – as more power is devolved to other assemblies we in England are still, in effect, ruled at Westminster by all or most of the countries that have now considerable rights to rule themselves.

We desperately need a shake-up to give those of us who live and vote in England a right to rule ourselves. Yes, our own Parliament/assembly.

As to the existing Parliament its powers should be restricted to such items as are nationally and internationally of great importance, such as defence, international trading and sharing of climate change actions.

All who sit in the English assembly should live in England, preferably in the area they represent. They should be employed full time by the people of England, meet perhaps in the Midlands.

From these bodies representatives should be sent to the upper Parliament (not more important, just different). The MPs for this body should be in keeping with the number of citizens they represent and should definitely have a real knowledge and preferably experience of what they will be debating. They would have powers to make laws and advise both the House of Lords and the local parliaments.

They would be paid only for the work they do, no one would turn up, then vanish. They could do other work that was not in conflict with their work as MPs, or would not benefit from the knowledge they gain as MPs.

The House of Lords would still exist, but much modified so that only those who really worked and added value to the work of the House would be paid.

B A FLOWERS
Shrewsbury

Bible contains the important forecast

WEATHER forecasting using satellite technology means that by studying the forces at work around the globe they can usually predict our weather and give a warning.

It should be even more important to us to take notice of the political forces in our ever shrinking world. There are now more wars going on in the world than ever.

The very technology invented for man's benefit is being used to create death and destruction, misery and famine on a massive scale. The whole human race is in mortal danger of being destroyed by nuclear war.

If you really want to know the 'world weather forecast', read the Bible, it's all happening as predicted. We are in what the Bible calls the last days.

It's all written in the Book, but ultimately man will not be allowed to destroy God's earth.

RON JONES
Oswestry

Down she comes. The demolition of a chimney at Ifton Brickworks, St Martins, on March 5, 1979. It did not go without incident. A 14-year-old boy, Gareth Pugh, was injured by flying debris.

Banning train drink service is not right answer

AFTER reading several newspaper reports concerning British Rail's proposed plan to ban alcohol in its buffet cars, in a knee-jerk reaction to alleged deaths at stations, I believe it would be unfair to ban a service which has been available to the travelling public for 180 years.

It has been claimed that alcohol has been a contributory factor in 21 of 32 deaths on platforms in the past 10 years.

My answer would be that if these individuals choose to use a train while under the influence they should be turned away as they could also constitute a danger to the majority of the sensible travelling public.

Also listed as a concern regarding accidents are people being distracted by using mobile phones, falling over bags, or tripping up in high heels.

I expect that if they chose to ban all those as well it would dramatically reduce if not eradicate the majority of the accidents.

Unfortunately, it would also result in a reduction of customers using the trains.

MARTIN EDDIES
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

A big thank you to coffee ladies

THE hard-working, kind-hearted and compassionate ladies who run a coffee morning and shop every Saturday at the United Reformed Church, Newtown, Powys, have donated £200 each to Leukaemia/Cancer Research, Hope House, Motor Neurone Disease and Hafan Day Hospice, Newtown.

Considering they only charge 50p for a coffee and biscuit one appreciates the effort made to raise such a generous gift.

They are the salt of the earth.

JOHN COOPER
Newtown United Reformed Church

Politicians must engage with younger voters

WHILE we hear so much about this important General Election, isn't it time that our elected representatives whoever they are or will be, start to listen to the views, opinions and feelings of young people as well?

Young people are talented, energetic and motivated and want to play an important part in our society. When I speak to my friends they say that they get turned off by politics and that it doesn't affect them.

For far too long young people have not been engaged with politics and the political process. Is that because they don't understand? It is probably some of the reasons, but also can politicians be blamed for not carrying out their duty and engaging with the whole of their electorate.

I am not saying that all politicians are the same but there is a large amount of them that only do what the minimum is and talk about the same old issues.

It is time for change!

JACK GILLUM
Knighton

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- Full Day Excursion to Kortrijk, Passchendaele, Ypres (Time is also given for dinner before we visit the Menin Gate to witness the moving Last Post Ceremony at 8pm). Packed Lunch provided today instead of dinner.

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Work to install pipes is started

WORK costing £200,000 to install more than 1.5 kilometres of new plastic water pipes in a village has started.

Severn Trent Water will replace old cast iron water pipes in and around Llanfachan. It is hoped the new pipes will be ready to serve homes in the area by June.

The work will include a series of road closures and temporary traffic lights over the next two months.

Gareth Mead, spokesman for Severn Trent Water, said: "The first part of the work will start on the B4393 heading past the village hall to the junction with Maes Mechain using temporary traffic lights for about two weeks. Later in April, to keep our engineers and everyone else who uses the road safe, we'll need to close the road from the junction of Maes Mechain to Llanfachan. This part should take about three weeks to complete."

"For the last part of the work, starting in mid May, we'll need to close the road between Llanfachan Bridge and Ffennant Lane."

New restaurant is set to open

PULLED pork and barbecue sauce will be on the menu when an American-style smokehouse opens in Oswestry next month.

The Smokehouse Grill will be opening in the former Lepone's Italian restaurant in Salop Road as soon as May 1.

Lepone's moved out of the restaurant and into a former church in Oswald Road earlier this year.

Renovations are now being done on the restaurant to transform it from a Mediterranean bistro to an all-American smokehouse.

The Smokehouse Grill has started recruiting staff for the new business.

Report by Pam Kingsley

NEST wars are being fought high in the trees in Mid Wales.

A day after the first osprey was spotted returning to a nesting area after the winter break in Africa, the nest's owner swooped in to chase off the usurper and take his place at the top of the tree.

In what was almost a repeat of events last year, Monty the osprey returned to his nest near Machynlleth, which is looked after by the Dyfi Osprey Project, to find younger mate Dai Dot already there.

And when Monty's mate for the past two years, Glesni, arrived, she found another female, Blue 24, getting friendly with Monty.

Dai Dot had been the first osprey to make a return, landing on Easter Monday. He was followed first thing the following day by Blue 24, who had a brief liaison with Dai Dot in 2014 on the Dyfi nest before resident breeding pair Monty and Glesni arrived.

In the afternoon a third bird joined the fray when Monty landed on the nest, to the delight of staff at the Dyfi Osprey Project.

Emrys Evans, of the Dyfi Osprey Project, said: "It's been one of those magical days on the Dyfi that crop up from time to time. Not only did one osprey turn up, three did."

"At about 2.20pm after the warm-up acts, the main man made his entrance. Monty left his Dyfi nest last year on September 7, and exactly seven months to the day later on April 7, he returned. He looks in great shape."

The team was even more delighted when Glesni made her appearance.

The birds spend the winter in Africa before flying 3,000 miles back to the area to breed each year. They have been recorded at the Dyfi nest for the past seven years.



Monty the osprey shows Blue 24 who is boss during a scuffle over the nest

Road design worries are highlighted

THERE is a lack of suitable places for tractors and lorry drivers to safely pull over on a main road through Mid Wales, it has been claimed.

Motorists driving on the A489 between Newtown and Llanidloes have raised the issue, which has been brought to the attention of the Welsh Assembly by Montgomeryshire AM Russell George. He is now waiting for an answer from transport minister Edwina Hart.

Mr George said he is now concerned that frustrated drivers held up in the traffic will be tempted to overtake in dangerous places.

He said: "I have raised the lack of suitable lay-bys along this section of the trunk road with the minister." Mr George said there is also a problem developing on the A483 bypass at Four Crosses, between Oswestry and Welshpool.

He said: "Local residents have highlighted a long standing safety issue by the existing roundabout towards Welshpool. The national speed limit applies and road markings allow drivers to overtake. There are a number of properties along this section and residents find it difficult to pull out of these properties safely."

Village hall is the venue for movie

THE Imitation Game (12A) starring Benedict Cumberbatch will be shown at Trefonen Village Hall on Saturday.

Based on the real life story of legendary code-breaker Alan Turing, the film portrays the nail-biting race against time by his top-secret team to break the Enigma Code during the darkest days of World War Two. The film will be shown at 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 for adults and £2.50 for children, and will be available on the door.

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The New Saints have led the way in the use of state of the art artificial pitches. Photos: Brian Jones.



Club bosses are hopeful the new pitch will help bring more success

New pitch for TNS

IT was an innovation when it was installed eight years ago.

But now the artificial pitch at the Park Hall ground near Oswestry that is the home of Welsh football champions, The New Saints, is being rolled up and removed to make way for a state-of-the-art replacement, so the club can host European matches once again.

TNS was the first to use a synthetic pitch in the Welsh league. It has helped the players to

Report by Sue Austin

TNS had to move its European games to other venues, such as Newtown and Wrexham.

So this week contractors went in and literally rolled up the 'turf'.

In just two days the workers removed the ageing pitch, revealing the base underneath and are now about to start the task of installing its replacement. Gilbert Woolley, from TNS, said: "The pitch will be replaced ahead of the 2015/2016 season, with the first fixture to be played on the new pitch set to be the UEFA Champions League tie in early July."



The New Saints will be able to play European football games at Park Hall thanks to the new pitch

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Warning is given on rogue traders**

RESIDENTS and businesses in Powys are being warned by the county council that a team of rogue traders are in the county offering to tarmac people's driveways or white lining works.

The warning has been issued by Powys County Council's Trading Standards Service after a spate of reports that residents are being approached and offered tarmac services.

Local businesses and schools have also been targeted with the offer to tarmac or repaint white lines.

Sue Bolter, the county council's head of regeneration property and commissioning, advised: "Our advice is never to accept work from cold callers and remember the older saying that if it is too good to be true, it usually is."

Plans launched to mark war end

A WELSHPOOL man is calling on the town's businesses to help him to organise a weekend to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Last year Alan Crow and Freda Davies organised a highly successful 1940s-themed Welshpool Winter Festival.

Now Mr Crowe has been challenged to do it again as part of the town's celebrations to mark the the end of the Second World War and is asking the business community to help him pull it off. He is hoping the event will be held on the weekend of September 5 and 6.

He said: "If every town centre business gave just £10 then there would be £3,000 in the kitty."

Work is carried out on castle's famous gardens

Report by Pam Kingsley

MAJOR work has taken place at Powis Castle to get the gardens in tip top condition ready for the influx of visitors expected over the spring and summer.

Head gardener David Swanton and his team have been carrying out a lot of work over the winter to prune, weed and generally tidy up the extensive gardens.

Although the winter was mild with no heavy snow, ice or extreme cold temperatures to cause damage to the garden or nursery, there was still more than enough work to keep the garden staff busy.

Mr Swanton said: "The warmer winter we experienced this year allowed us to keep busy in the gardens throughout the colder months. We've done many annual jobs such as pruning and tying-in all the climbers throughout the garden, but we've also made some changes that should make a real difference to people's visit.

In the wilderness woodland we've removed rhododendron ponticum in order to open up the magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and castle.

"We've also split and cut back many of our yew hedges throughout the garden in a continuing programme of renewal for the plants.

"Although cutting them so far back may look extreme, it is common practice when hedges become overgrown and they'll soon grow back better and stronger than ever."



David Swanton, head gardener at Powis Castle, has been keeping the gardens tip-top for the spring

Carnival will have circus fun this year

PADDINGTON Bear, the raccoon from the Walkers crisps advert and a donkey that appeared in Heartbeat will be starring in a circus scene at Welshpool Carnival this year.

The carnival, organised by Welshpool Town Council, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

Floats, groups and walkers are invited to join the procession for the chance to win cash prizes. The parade will leave Berriew Street Car Park at 1pm and go around the town before ending at Maes Y Dre fields.

Alongside the floats and circus will be a horse and carriage for the Victory Queen, bay llamas and other animals in a petting corner, a Viking re-enactment, crazy golf, ferret racing, a dog show, duck racing, and donkey and pony rides.

There will be displays of classic cars and performances by the Gwylfael school dancers, the fire service and birds of prey. Outside the arena there will be children's games, a funfair, bouncy castles, side shows and quad bikes. Food stalls will be available throughout the afternoon.

Entry is free, but donations will be collected at the gate.

Cashless payments plan for schools

CASHLESS payments will be introduced at schools across Mid Wales in a bid to make it easier for staff and pupils.

Powys County Council said it is exploring a new payment system which will allow pupils to pay for lunch with a pre-loaded card.

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Mayor warns of funding crisis facing local groups

THE mayor of Oswestry says it has become harder to help sustain local organisations with grants and funding, because of the economic climate.

Councillor John Gareth Jones has praised the work of countless groups across the town of Oswestry that he said 'made the town tick'.

Speaking at his civic dinner, held at The Wynnstay, he said the last 12 months had really impressed on him how lucky Oswestry was to have so many organisations and individuals who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for others.

He said: "Sustaining those organisations with funding has been so difficult in recent years due to the economic climate. But as mayor I have been privileged and heartened to see the many adjustments they have made and the wonderful spirit that exists." He said that his mayor's charities for the year were the Oswestry Senior Citizens' Club, of which he was chairman, and Designs in Mind, a group that, through art, helps those with mental health issues.

Despite the economic downturn, Councillor Jones said it was staggering to see the role and influence that Oswestry Town Council had in the everyday life of the town, from being responsible for Cae Glas Park to helping Oswestry Museum in the Guildhall.

He said: "Thanks to Bill Longmore, our police and crime commissioner, we secured nearly £70,000 of funding and as a result have one of the finest voluntary CCTV systems in the UK."

The council secured £68,000 Heritage Lottery Funding for our cemetery project and, with support from the Royal British Legion we have restored the War Memorial at Cae Glas Park."

The biggest increase in tickets issued was in the Central Car Park which saw a 4.4 per cent in income and £450,627 raised.

Most drivers are still staying in the town for either one hour or between one and two hours with Smithfield car park, by the Memorial Hall, seeing the biggest number of one hour shoppers. However overall there was a 16.4 per cent increase in the number of people staying between four to six hours in all the car parks.

In a report to Oswestry Town Council's markets and car parks committee, council finance officer, Roger Dyke, says: "The total income from the three car parks for April to March 2014/15 totals £625,780 compared to £602,441, an increase of 3.87 per cent."

Over the last 12 months 830,074 tickets have been issued for the three car parks run by the council - 19,530 more than in the previous 12 months, and an increase of 2.4 percent.

Motorists are also stopping for longer, the figures indicate.

Figures released by Oswestry Town Council show the biggest increase is in those staying between four and six hours.

The council is responsible for the running and maintenance of the large Central car park, the Smithfield Street park and the Horsemarket next to the indoor and outdoor market. Profits go back into council funds, helping the authority to run its various services and keep its council tax precept low.

A TEAM of Oswestry firefighters have raised hundreds of pounds for charity after completing a five kilometre run - wearing their full firefighting kit.

Members of the crew from Oswestry Station were joined by two of the firefighters' children for the Run for the 95k at Stanley Park in

More motorists making use of town's car parks

Report by Sue Austin

MORE drivers are making use of Oswestry's main car parks, helping to swell the coffers of the town council and bringing more people into the town centre.

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Firefighters raise funds for charity



Some of the Oswestry firefighting team pictured at the event in Liverpool on Sunday

A TEAM of Oswestry firefighters have raised hundreds of pounds for charity after completing a five kilometre run - wearing their full firefighting kit.

Members of the crew from Oswestry Station were joined by two of the firefighters' children for the Run for the 95k at Stanley Park in

Liverpool on Sunday. The fundraising event was created in memory of the 96 Liverpool football fans who died as a result of the Hillsborough tragedy at Sheffield Wednesday's ground in 1989.

Among the firefighting team who took part in the running challenge was Oswestry firefighter Robyn

Evans, who was joined by his nine-year-old daughter Tessa.

Firefighter Troy Smith also took part with his 10-year-old daughter Lottie while firefighters James Lewis, Mike Mounsey and Steve Weston also took part in the challenge. The team has raised £700 through their efforts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UFO spotted in skies in region

A MAN claims he saw a UFO racing through the night sky on the Powys/Shropshire border.

Jamie Keeling, from Four Crosses, near Oswestry, said a deep rumbling sound caused him to look up into the sky on April 9.

He saw a large black triangular craft flying overhead with a red light at each corner.

Mr Keeling, a 28-year-old company director who is a keen amateur astronomer, said: "I looked up and saw a large black triangular craft flying overhead with a bright, pulsating red light."

"Red was the only colour light visible on the entire craft and it was on the three corners."

"It appeared at approximately 9.55pm and flew directly over Four Crosses, which is where I live and it was travelling at a constant speed and height."

"It was hard to tell what altitude it was flying at, but it looked very high and very large in size and was travelling due east."

Seats are vacant on town council

VACANT seats on Welshpool Town Council will be up for grabs after two long-serving councillors decided to stand down.

Councillor John Meredith and Councillor Anne Davies - both former mayors of Welshpool - stood down from Welshpool Town Council in February.

Nominations for the two seats - in the Gungrog and Llanerchydol wards - must be made by Wednesday to County Hall in Llandrindod Wells. If more than two candidates for both seats come forward, an election will be held on May 28.



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Event will focus on family history

OSWESTRY Family & Local History Group will be holding a week of events to help people track down more of their family history.

During the week beginning May 11 the group will hold a series of talks and demonstrations at Oswestry Library about the information that is available to help research family history.

Each day will start with a short introductory talk followed by a demonstration of searching techniques, including lots of hints and tips about various websites. After a break, those who wish to stay on will have the opportunity to try out the library's facilities for themselves, with a friendly hand to guide if needed.

The programme for the week will be civil registration (birth, marriage & death certificates) and parish registers on the Monday, census records on the Tuesday, occupations and annuities on the Wednesday, probate, wills and newspapers on the Thursday, and military records on the Friday.

Writer will talk about her work

YOUNG adult fiction author Frances Hardinge will be visiting Oswestry next month to talk about her new book, *The Lie Tree*.

The award-winning author of *Cuckoo Song* and *Fly by Night* will give a talk and answer questions at Booka Bookshop in Church Street on May 5.

The event at the bookshop runs from 5pm to 7pm.

The Lie Tree is described as a wonderfully evocative and atmospheric novel.

The event is free but places should be booked by calling the shop on (01691) 662244.

Report by Pam Kingsley

THE last remaining pub in a village has been declared an asset of community value to protect it from development for years to come.

Regulars at the Cross Guns in Pant made the bid for protected status after seeing two other pubs in the village close in recent years.

The bid was supported by villagers and has been approved by Shropshire Council.

Listing the pub as an asset of community value gives locals in the area advance warning of any planned developments to the site, especially change of use, which could result in the pub no longer being a public house. Landlady Alison Foden said there is no current threat to the Cross Guns.

She said: "It gives the people of Pant a greater sense that the pub is unlikely to ever not be in existence."

"It's been done by concerned residents of the area who put it forward because we've had one or two issues with the brewery and people were getting worried, but I can say categorically that there are no plans to sell the pub."

The Cross Guns is owned by Marstons and leased to the landlords.

Matt Brown, national planning advisor at pub campaign group CAMRA, said listing is important for all pubs in England.

He said: "We are delighted to be informed that the Cross Guns Inn has been added to the local authority asset list and now has status as an asset of community value. The listing demonstrates how much the community values the pub."

Pubs have been closing at the rate of about 29 per week across the country.



The Cross Guns in Pant has been declared an asset of community value

Care centre call made by party chief

AN urgent care centre in Montgomeryshire is essential – especially in light of the threat to the accident and emergency unit in Shrewsbury, according to the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

Welsh Assembly Member Kirsty Williams said care should be brought closer to home for people living in the Powys area rather than them having to rely on hospital services in Shropshire. She said: "An urgent care centre in Montgomeryshire is essential if we are to relieve pressure on A&E departments and cut waiting times."

"Things simply can't keep continuing the way they are. People are absolutely fed up of having to travel hours on end for what should be easily available care."

Her comments came during a visit to Montgomeryshire where she also highlighted the importance of keeping A&E services in Shrewsbury.

Under the Future Fit proposals being put forward by NHS Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, the A&E departments of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princes Royal Hospital in Telford are currently being looked at to see how best to serve the region's patients in the future.

Youngsters get street dance tips

TEENAGERS and younger children in Llanfyllin have enjoyed a master-class in street dance.

Arts Connection, a community arts project in Llanfyllin, worked with Bethan Smith to put on a street dance workshop on recently.

More than 20 children and young people learned some new dance moves and had the opportunity to create a performance by the end of the session to show their parents.

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Picture focus



The British Ironwork Centre's Alfie Bradley is working on the sculpture



Chief Constable David Shaw and sculptor Alfie Bradley look at some of the weapons



Some of the deadly weapons handed in to police



West Mercia Chief Constable David Shaw and sculptor Alfie Bradley get to work on the sculpture

Police bosses back project

Report by Sue Austin

THE top brass of West Mercia Police learnt a new skill by helping to create an inspirational sculpture.

Chief Constable David Shaw and Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore visited the British Ironwork Centre in Aston, near Oswestry, to weld a knife onto an angel sculpture being created there.

With tuition from sculptor Alfie Bradley the two were able to make their mark on the breastplate of the sculpture, which it hoped will one day stand on the fourth plinth in London's Trafalgar Square.

The angel is being made with thousands of knives that have been confiscated or handed into police forces across the UK.

Mr Longmore said: "This really is an inspirational initiative which we hope will discourage people from carrying knives."

"More and more people seem to think it is cool to carry a knife, but if you have one on your person the temptation is there to use it and just one incident, one thrust and a life it lost."

Police forces from throughout the country have contribute knives to the project.

Mr Shaw said West Mercia Police had contributed 5,000 knives to the project and said he had been only too pleased to contact other chief constables to get other forces on board.

He said: "Clive Knowles from the centre is so passionate about this that you can not fail to be enthused by what he is doing. It has been a superb idea that has helped to rid the streets of some of the dreadful knives that are in circulation."

"We do not have a major problem with knife crime in West Mercia Police thank goodness, but it only takes one knife and one moment of madness to lead to a loss of life or a life changing injury."

"If a knife is in the wrong hands at the wrong time then it can be highly dangerous. Lives can be ruined - not only the victim and his family's lives but those of the perpetrator."

Mr Bradley said he was finishing the outline of the sculpture and will then begin the painstaking task of welding thousands of knives onto the angel which will stand, wings outstretched, almost 25 feet tall.



Chief Constable David Shaw gets some tips on welding from sculptor Alfie Bradley



Knives will be used to make the sculpture



Special care has to be taken when handling the weapons

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Holy Trinity C of E Primary School is a welcoming and inclusive school

school facilities which include two large halls, cookery room and a fully stocked library. They attend weekly Celebration Assemblies with the reception class children and take part in many fun, fundraising events such as Red Nose Day, World Book Day and Christmas Jumper Day, dressing up in their costumes which makes them feel part of the whole school activity. Holy Trinity aims to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment for your child. If your child is older than nursery age, places are still available to join our reception class. Please ring or e-mail the school office for details.



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RUYTON XI TOWNS Pre-School is situated in the centre of the village, adjacent to St John the Baptist Primary School, providing access to the school grounds, activities and resources, as well as the local rural surroundings.

This is a welcoming, friendly Pre-School where children are happy and relaxed. The staff believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life, and support to fulfil their full potential. Ofsted 2014 awarded 'Outstanding' in care and education, promoting equality and diversity. They commented: "The quality of teaching is exemplary. Staff use their wealth of knowledge to provide high quality experiences for all children. Teaching provides optimum challenge for children across their developmental stages. It is differentiated to meet the needs of the youngest and oldest children. As a result, all children's needs are met exceedingly well."

The Pre-School work in partnership with parents to support children in their learning and development. Each child and their family have a dedicated Key Person, who keeps them informed and involved throughout their child's learning journey.

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Children at Ruyton XI Towns Preschool celebrate the Ofsted report

exciting! The daily routine covers the seven areas of learning within the EYFS, with free-flow indoor and outdoor space, including both adult-led and child-initiated activities such as, role play, story telling, mark-making, phonics, numbers and shape, building and construction, planting and growing, music and dance, and cooking.

Ofsted stated: "Activities and experiences are vigilantly matched to the interests and next steps in all children's

learning. The range of activities that are provided are excellent in supporting the different ways children learn. Staff and parents together have high expectations of children. As a result, children make outstanding progress towards the Early Learning Goals."

If you would like to call for more information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact the Pre-School on 01939 261322 or email ruytonxitownsprechool@yahoo.co.uk

School offers a fun learning experience

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL is a small school in the beautiful village of Ruyton XI Towns.

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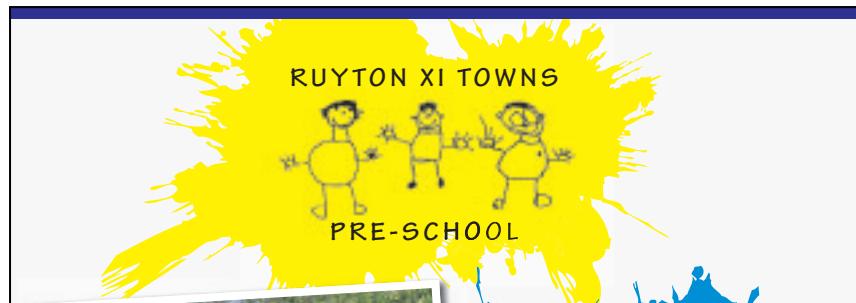
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St John the Baptist C of E Primary School has a caring and nurturing ethos

developed through the medium of Jelly Beans! Delivery of the curriculum in this way, fosters pupil engagement and enthusiasm and the all-important 'sense of wonder'. In its most recent Ofsted inspection in November 2014, the school achieved a rating of "Good". It has a highly skilled team of staff committed to supporting every child to meet their individual potential through a nurturing, creative and fun learning environment.



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Election 2015

Controversial battle on power lines will be hot topic for voters



Jonathan Wilkinson with protestors in Llanymynech

IT has already been the topic of three years of consultations and mass protests along its 33-mile route, but the battle over controversial power plans will remain a hot topic on the agenda in Mid Wales.

Whoever is elected the new MP for Montgomeryshire after the General Election on May 7, they will be thrust into the thick of the debate over plans to build windfarms, pylons and a power line across the region.

Glyn Davies, Conservative candidate and the man who has been the region's MP for the past five years, has led the campaign against the plans so far.

And with the results of a public inquiry into plans for five windfarms set to be announced following the election, it seems whoever is in the position will have it at the top of their in-tray.

Recently, reports in a national newspaper, claimed Lib Dem Ed Davey, who served as the Energy and Climate Change Secretary in the coalition government, has given the go-ahead for three of the five windfarms.

But the plans are so unpopular that Mr Davey has refused to make a public announcement before May's election fearing it would harm the Lib Dems' chances of winning the Montgomeryshire seat.

The planning inquiry, which was held in Welshpool, was completed in May 2014. A report with recommendations was delivered to Mr Davey, who has the final say in the matter, at the beginning of December.

A spokesman at the Department of Energy and Climate Change said Mr Davey had "relinquished making any decision" and instead left it to his successor after the general election in May.

Reverse

Campaigners, who have conducted mass protests against the proposed turbines, are clinging to the hope that a future energy secretary might reverse the planning inspector's recommendation.

Should the windfarms be given the go-ahead, it would pave the way for the National Grid's Mid Wales Connection Project.

The project will see a huge substation build at Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caer-einon, and a 33-mile 200kv power line carried on pylons and underground through the Meifod Valley to the connection point at Lower Frankton, near Oswestry.

Campaigners say the electricity pylons will ruin the countryside. But National Grid says it is simply doing its duty, as laid down by government.

If the plans get the go ahead, the first seven or so miles will be overland through the Welsh foothills and the Bawny valley before it is sunk underground for an eight-mile stretch of the Meifod Valley.

It will then emerge to travel south of Llansantffraid and Llanymynech before crossing fields near the Montgomery canal, the Oswestry golf course, the A5, the British Ironworks Centre near Oswestry and on to the north/west south line.

Montgomery Against Pylons campaigner, Jonathan Wilkinson, said that the final decision over the wind farms would be an extremely political one.

"Ed Miliband has made it very clear that his party wants to see a whole lot more windfarms and not just in Wales."

"That will make life incredibly difficult for protesters," he said.

"However David Cameron has said that the Conservatives want to look at other methods of alternative energy, such as tidal power."

"This all puts a new light on the Mid Wales connection."

"Montgomery Against Pylons has been urging National Grid for about six months now to hold the preparatory work until after the national election," added Mr Wilkinson.

Burning issues for voters are revealed

Report by Andrew Morris

POLICING, windfarms and health care are the three burning topics on the minds of people in Mid Wales in the run up to the General Election.

Shoppers in Welshpool said they are worried about cuts to Dyfed-Powys Police, plans to build windfarms, pylons and a substation in the area and also the future of cross border healthcare.

The majority also believed that Conservative candidate Glyn Davies had done a good job while MP for Montgomeryshire over the past five years.

But Martin Riffel, who owns Treleigh Sales, an old and new book shop in Welshpool Indoor Market, said he feels Lib Dem candidate Jane Dodds will give him a run for his money.

Mr Riffel, who is from Forden, said: "I am really looking forward to the election and think it will be an intriguing race both nationally and locally."

"It will be quite close and with regards to Montgomeryshire I think the Lib Dems will push Glyn all the way."

"I just feel that Jane Dodds has done an awful lot of campaigning, even welcoming



Martin Riffel – intriguing poll



Estelle Bleivas – help police



Marilyn Bedworth – friend



Ruth Martin – taking interest

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg to the region twice.

Estelle Bleivas, of Waterloo Place, Welshpool, said policing matters, health care and wind farms were all topics she is looking for candidates to work on,

She said: "Something needs to be done to help the police in Welshpool."

"Christopher Salmon, the police and crime commissioner, promises more bobbies on the beat, but we need it to happen now."

She added: "The topic which everyone is

talking about though is the plans for the windfarms, powerline and pylons.

"It is a huge worry for us here in Mid Wales that our glorious countryside will be decimated by the plans and Glyn Davies has been strong in the fight against them."

Ms Bleivas, who is a Welshpool Town Councillor, said she is also "worried" about the future of health care.

Marilyn Bedworth, a secretary from Welshpool, said she was looking forward to supporting Glyn Davies. She added: "I definitely will be voting and I will be voting

for Glyn Davies as I class him as a friend.

"He has done a magnificent job serving the community as an MP and I know he will continue that."

"People see Glyn as a person rather than a politician and I think that helps his reputation. He is a local farmer and is passionate about local issues."

Her daughter, Ruth Martin, added: "I have voted every year, but I don't think I can this year as I haven't registered it at my new address. I take an interest however and think it will be a close run thing."

Seat battle Lib Dems 'selling a good story'

Liberal Democrats are campaigning hard in Lembit Opik's former seat. THOM KENNEDY reports

WHILE the sun shone on the daffodil yellow of the Liberal Democrats at the 2010 election, many commentators fear that next month's vote could see the party's power base slashed by more than half.

With 57 seats to its name before the dissolution of parliament, the party could find that when it returns to the Commons its army of members is whittled down to around 25.

But Montgomeryshire moved against the grain at the last vote, with incumbent Lib Dem Lembit Opik losing his seat to Conservative Glyn Davies.

Now, while party leaders fight fires all over the country, in this rural Welsh seat it hopes to light one of its own.

Jane Dodds, a social worker of 22 years and first-time parliamentary candidate, is tasked with winning back what was once a reliable seat for the party.

Policies

The Welsh speaker, from Wrexham, cut her political teeth on Richmond Council in London, and now lives in Welshpool with her photographer husband Patrick.

"We are very clear that what we've done in the coalition is to moderate the Tories' worst excesses," she said as she joined local activists on the doorstep in Newtown.

"We've 70 per cent of manifesto policies in operation. We've delivered on fairness and some really good policies. In England, free school meals for children, the income tax threshold is raised, we've got the pupil premium and the green agenda."

She is centring her campaign on health care, calling for the retention of health services in Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth, and raising targets for ambulance response times in the rural patch. It follows a lengthy consultation the party ran with local people on the patch.

Still, the party's decision to go into coalition with the Conservatives is clearly one that's divisive among local people. In neighbouring homes in Mill Close, she encounters one voter who is keen to support the party – but another who is furious at having been assessed as fit for work, leading her beliefs to be cut. She has lost all faith in the Lib Dems, she told the 51-year-old candidate.

"What I say is the country decided," Ms Dodds says when I ask about whether entering the coalition was the right thing to do. "If we had left it, the economy was in a terrible situation in May 2010, another six months to get to another election, we couldn't have waited. Labour didn't want us so we formed a coalition with the Con-



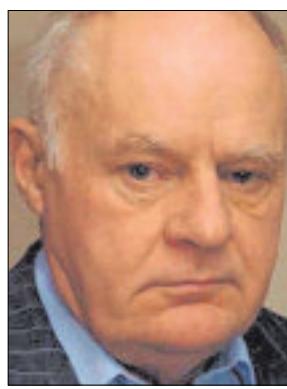
Bookies favourite – Glyn Davies



Social worker – Jane Dodds



Plaid Cymru's Ann Griffith



Third in running – Des Parkinson



Labour candidate – Martyn Singleton



Odds of 100/1 – Richard Chaloner

servatives.

"We will do what's right for the country.

Coalitions are here to stay and I'm not sure that's such a bad thing."

It's a tight race. The Conservatives remain the bookies' favourite with odds of around 1/3 in their favour, while Ms Dodds is closer to 2/1. Despite that, it's a very cordial campaign that's out of keeping with the national slugfest.

"I think it was a considerable shock last time," says Mr Davies. "They are targeting the seat and would like to win it back. Naturally I'm very keen to hold onto it."

"I think it's almost impossible to say how it will turn out, but from my perspective I feel as if it's going quite well."

Ukip's Des Parkinson is third in the running with odds of around 50/1, followed by Plaid Cymru's Ann Griffith and the Green Party candidate Richard Chaloner, both of which are regularly receiving odds of 100/1.

Labour's Martyn Singleton faces odds ranging from 100/1 to 150/1. Three key issues in both frontrunners' campaigns are health services, windfarms and pylons, and immigration and the European Union.

Ms Dodds wants pylons burying, Mr Davies wants the scheme to be scrapped.

On health services, both are keen to retain A&E services in Shrewsbury.

"The changes to the NHS structure are a cause for concern, that they move more into Telford and become inaccessible to Montgomeryshire," said Mr Davies, who first stood for his local seat at the 1997 election and who still owns a farm on the patch.

"I can only do what I have always done – work with the NHS trust and try to make the argument that we should retain services for Mid Wales as well, and I think that's accepted."

Mrs Dodds joins her party in backing

continued membership of the EU, and said: "I think in terms of immigration we need to think about the skill mix we need, but if you look at Welshpool we have a lot of Polish people there – and those Polish people are very hard working."

Mr Davies responds: "The only way to do anything about the EU is to have a referendum, and the only party that will provide that is the Conservative Party."

The concern for Lib Dems is Mrs Dodds is hoping to overcome dissatisfaction with the legacy of larger than life ex-MP Opik. "Lembit was a good constituency MP for 13 years," Mrs Dodds says.

"In 2010 people thought he was doing things that were not the type of things you do as an MP."

"Lembit has gone. I'm very different in lots of ways, with a different approach, different attitude. The Lib Dems are selling a really good story on the doorsteps."

Your business in the spotlight

This is a new 7 page advertisement feature profiling successful businesses in the area.

The Oswestry and Border Chronicle - working together with local businesses!



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Football final will be a real historic occasion

THE New Saints and Newtown will meet in the 128th FAW Welsh Cup Final at Pave Aways Latham Park on Saturday, May 2 for a 2:30pm kick off.

This will be a significant showpiece final as The New Saints attempt to complete a domestic treble having already secured the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier League title and the Word Cup so far this season.

Meanwhile, Newtown will be making their first Welsh Cup Final appearance in 118 years and the last time that they won the competition was 120 years ago.

Should the Saints defeat Newtown in the final, they would achieve the first League and Cup treble since Barry Town did so in the 1996/97 season. It would also be the first time that The New Saints would have achieved such a feat in their history.

The New Saints are the current holders of the Welsh Cup having beaten Aberystwyth Town 3-2 in last season's exciting Final at The Racecourse in Wrexham.

Their most gruelling encounter in this season's competition came from Caernarfon Town in Round Three, when the Saints were forced to come back from 2-0 down to win the match 3-2 due to goals from Mike Wilde, Chris Marriott and Jamie Mullan.

To get to the final, Newtown had to navigate through some difficult opponents, including a derby against local rivals Caersws in Round Four of the competition. Newtown then proceeded



Shane Sutton and Matty Williams tangle during a previous encounter

to eliminate Bangor City from the Welsh Cup, a club who have won the competition on eight occasions and most recently in 2013.

To set up their date with history, Newtown were forced to come from behind in the semi-finals when Rhyl scored after just three minutes. Newtown showed great character in the match and Jason Oswell and Matty Owen got themselves on the score-sheet to take the Robins to the final.

Andrew Howard, FAW's head of competitions, explained: "The Welsh Cup Final is the showcase event in the domestic football calendar in Wales and we are delighted to be hosting the match in Newtown. The venue choice is convenient for fans of both clubs and their support could prove to be the 12th man on the day."

Tickets are available from <https://www.eticketing.co.uk/fawtickets-english/default.aspx>

Walled Garden now open at top restaurant



EXCITING times are upon us at the Townhouse Oswestry with the latest news and forthcoming events.

With the first in our long line of exclusive events being a fantastic sell out success, last week saw Michael Caines host a fabulous 'evening with' here at the Townhouse.

A wonderful evening had by all leaving our guests with a taste for more, so much so, we are delighted to announce our second "evening with" will be taking place during the sum-

mer so keep checking the website for confirmation. We are also delighted to confirm the news that the Walled Garden is now open.

Already branded as the best garden in Oswestry to drink and dine there is no better place in Oswestry to sit out and enjoy the wonderful sunshine while enjoying and indulging in some of our tempting delicacies off the bar menu and not forgetting the Kamado Joe barbecue.

When the sun shines, the Kamado Joe will be making a star appearance on weekends. Our next event, which is simply not to be missed, is the official Launch Party for the Walled Garden.

Taking place on Saturday, May 2, it is the perfect combination of live music, barbecue food and a free drink, all included - tickets available now at just £30 each. Don't miss out, book today.

This week sees the launch of our Afternoon Tea at the Townhouse, just in time for summer.

Our unrivalled Afternoon Tea will be available from today (Thursday) from 12pm - 5pm.

Booking is essential as everything is freshly prepared to order in house using Michael Caines' own recipes. Keep an eye out for our Ladies Day Afternoon Tea Celebration coming soon in May.

THE FINAL

THE NEW SAINTS v NEWTOWN AFC

Saturday 2 May 2015
Pave Aways Latham Park, Newtown
Kick-off 14:30
Adults £8 Senior Citizens £5 U16s £1



TOWNHOUSE
BAR - RESTAURANT - TERRACE

THE WALLED GARDEN
LAUNCH PARTY

SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2015 FROM 12PM

Join us to celebrate the launch of the Walled Garden, live entertainment throughout the day with a barbecue and outdoor bar serving your favourite summer tipple.

Don't worry about the weather, the party will continue in the long room!

TICKET INCLUDES:

- BARBECUE
- ONE FREE DRINK*
- £30

100 TICKETS AVAILABLE, CALL NOW TO BOOK YOURS!
Tickets not refundable nor transferable, children welcome until 8pm under 12s half price

Poet Brian offers help with finding right words

If you are looking for a touching or meaningful poem for that special occasion an Oswestry man may have the answer.

Brian Stone takes commissions for personal poems covering a wide range of subjects and sentiments, often weaving unusual aspects skilfully around deeply felt feelings and messages.

For many years Brian has written scripts, short speeches and prose.

Poetry came to the fore with the passing of his beloved wife Christine when his grief manifested itself through his ability as a poet.

The results was a torrent of heart felt feelings woven into a touching fabric of verse.

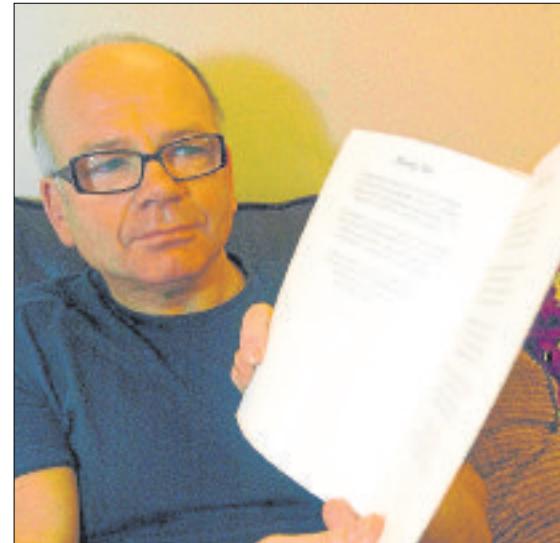
Many readers of his book, My Journey Through Grief, have shed tears over the content while his poetry has now moved on to encompass humour, satire, messaging and children's poetry.

A percussion teacher, Brian began playing drums at the age of 13.

He worked in West End nightclubs before joining the bands on ocean liners. On his marriage Brian moved to Stoke in 1972, playing in a resident band before taking to the stage at Tiffanys in Shrewsbury.

His studies took him to Trinity College of Music in London, studying orchestral percussion with Michael Skinner, principal percussionist at Covent Garden Opera House, Andrew Smith of Philharmonia and Michael Baker of Royal RPO.

After moving into teaching full time



Brian Stone from Oswestry with one of his poem books

he formed Britain's first drum kit and percussion exam syllabus for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

He has remained an examiner for the Guildhall and for the LCM.

In 1988 he began seven years with the Shropshire Music Service and in-

stituted the Shropshire Schools Percussion Ensemble, gaining qualified teacher status.

Brian has appeared at Theatre Clwyd on over 80 occasions and now plays in several bands and orchestras as well as conducting and nine percussion ensembles.

ADVERTISING with the Oswestry and Border Chronicle gives businesses in the area a great opportunity to reach a wide audience.

The Chronicle, alongside its sister paper the Shropshire Star, has an audience of thousands. And with the growing popularity of advertising on the internet through our shropshirestar.com website there has never been a better time to advertise.

Businesses as well as readers have embraced the Oswestry and Border Chronicle since it was launched four years ago.

Thanks to the support of our readers and advertisers and the incredible hard work of all our staff, the last four years have been hugely successful for the newspaper. Delivered free to thousands of homes around the Oswestry and Welshpool area and also available to buy in shops, the Chronicle offers unrivalled coverage of the matters that affect you.

As part of the prestigious Midlands News Association stable, the Chronicle gives high quality coverage of news and sport and a fantastic platform to meet all our advertisers' needs.

The Chronicle's first edition came out on March 10, 2011.

The evolution of the product has ensured continuing success and we look forward to many years of more success. Our advertising staff can cater for all your business's needs. Call (01691) 668095 for details.



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Chip shop is proud to offer top quality food

HUSBAND and wife team Gary and Indy Randhawa have just opened a fantastic modern brand new fish and chip shop in Whittington, refurbished to a very high standard serving top quality food at great competitive prices.

Whittington's Quality Fish & Chips offers excellent value for money. They provide an excellent take away service including kids' meal deals, serving fish and chips, home made fish cakes and pizzas, pies and pasties, sausages, chicken, chicken nuggets, kebabs, burgers, wraps, sauces, drinks and lots and lots of extras. They are open seven days a week.

Indy Randhawa said: "Certainly, fish and chips is booming: Britain eats 255 million portions annually, more than any other takeaway food."

"We are far pickier about what and where we eat these days, and we realise that the chippy must adapt, particularly when big-name chefs and restaurateurs, such as Rick Stein are opening glitzy, high-end chippies."

"There has been a huge change in the perception of what a fish and chip shop can be."

"People used to think it was an easy option."

"Now, chefs are coming in and giving fish and chips a lot of respect."

"We fry to order, and use fresh fish, not frozen."

"We are very responsible in sourcing our fresh fish and are telling that story to customers."



Whittington's Quality Fish and Chips offers a great service

Gary and Indy have worked in the family fish and chip shop business which has been running for more than 26 years.

Gary said: "Fresh fish is sweet, flaky, soft in the mouth, not that rubbery, frozen texture."

"Chips are an art, too. We are very happy in our new

shop, we love meeting people and pride ourselves on being friendly.

"We put our customers first and always go that extra mile to look after them."

So if you are looking for some of the best fish and chips around, look no further than Whittington's Quality Fish & Chips.

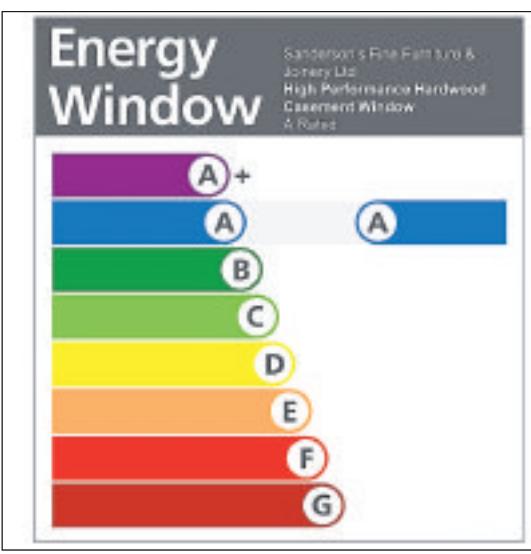
SANDERSON'S Fine Furniture & Joinery from Four Crosses near Oswestry are now manufacturing a British Fenestration Rating Council (BFRC) A Rated Hardwood Energy Window.

Nigel Sanderson said: "We have been asked on numerous occasions to make windows for our customers, but until now we had not found the right system."

"So we decided to look into the market and see what wooden windows are available to buy. We realised there was a market for a high class hardwood High Performance Flush Casement Window." These are the first hardwood windows to be manufactured in Powys and Shropshire to the BFRC A Rated standard.

The BFRC rating scheme, rates the whole window (including the frame and any casement) on its energy saving properties.

So exactly what are Energy Efficient Windows? They are windows that help to contain and conserve heat within the home keeping out wind and rain, resisting condensation and yet allowing natural "free" energy, the warmth of the sun, to heat the home. They can be made using any frame material, in this instance hardwood. The ratings label can be used by you to make more informed choices about the energy efficiency of the windows you are looking to purchase. Energy Efficient Windows are easy to recognise, simply look for the BFRC Label, as each window rated by BFRC has a unique identifying mark on the frame or opening – it is the sign of quality. Nigel said: "We are so pleased with the final window system and customer feedback has been very positive, and having the A Rating gives our customers yet another sign of the quality product they are purchasing."



The BFRC A Rating label

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To see an example of the A Rated Window or further details please contact 01691 830075 or visit the workshop at Unit 1, 2, 5 & 6 The Village Workshops, Four Crosses, Powys, SY22 6ST.

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Company's A rated window is a winner

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ENERGY EFFICIENT HARDWOOD WINDOWS A RATED



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College head delighted at new position

SARAH Probert, North Shropshire College's head of business studies, has been elected to the executive committee of the Oswestry Chamber of Commerce.

She was elected at the AGM of the chamber, and was elected alongside other committee members, secretary and chairman.

Commenting on her election, Sarah said: "I'm really honoured and happy to be supporting the chamber."

"I'm keen to strengthen professional relationships between the college and the business community, and I'm particularly keen on promoting youth enterprise."

Sarah's passion is all about promoting enterprise within the community.

The college is proud that she has been shortlisted for the National Association of College and University Entrepreneurs' UK Enterprise Champion.

The final takes place tomorrow (Friday) in London at the NACUE Leaders Summit. Sarah would like to thank the college, her students, NACUE and Shropshire's business community for the fantastic support she has received.

For more information about the college's Business Incubator scheme or qualifications in business, email Sarah on s.probert@nsc.ac.uk.

Cheque is presented

A £10,000 cheque has been presented to a community banking fund which helps small businesses.

The Robert Owen Community Banking Fund in Newtown has been given the money by Stormvoip.com, a business phone provider in Welshpool.

The money will go towards helping small businesses and start-ups.

Electricity upgrade will go ahead says company

Report by Rebecca King

AN £18 million upgrade which will increase the electricity capacity of towns across north Shropshire will go ahead it has been confirmed.

Bosses from Scottish Power Energy Networks announced they had received Ofgem approval for the reinforcement works to benefit Oswestry, Wem and Whitchurch which is expected to be completed by 2022.

It will increase capacity by up to 20 per cent within the next seven years.

The news was revealed at a meeting of Whitchurch Town Council when energy experts said that the upgrade would provide the equivalent capacity for 50,000 homes.

Rachel Shorrey, engineering specialist at SPEN, said: "We have had the approval for the upgrade and are now working on a more detailed plan and hope to have that by the end of summer. "The overall completion will be between 2020 and 2022.

"As soon as we have that full plan in about six to 12 months we hope to come back and talk again and have more detail for you. The benefit for this project will be in Oswestry, Wem and Whitchurch and will increase the existing network capacity by around 20 per cent – the equivalent to the capacity for another 50,000 homes."

The plans have been anticipated for months after an initial presentation was given by the energy company last year, but bosses said they had to wait for Ofgem approval before moving any further.

New home will be opening its doors



Craig Marston, left, and Dave Pallatina of DG Pallatina Builders

PEOPLE are being given the opportunity to go "through the keyhole" of a bespoke house in Oswestry which is being opened to the public for one day only.

The house in Cherry Tree Drive has been designed and built by Oswestry-based Ke-design and DG Pallatina builders, who said they wanted to give people the opportunity to view the finished article after getting so many requests while the house was being constructed. Craig Marston, of Ke-design, said the modern look of the house had prompted lots of comments so they were expecting a good turnout at the open day on May 9. He said "Ke-design were approached by the owner of DG Pallatina builders, as he has an interest in good design, to design something a little different on this small plot and we relished the challenge.

"Its appearance may seem little different to some, but it's a modern twist on the surrounding dwellings." Dave Pallatina, of DG Pallatina builders, added: "While it was being constructed we received lots of complimentary comments from people saying how different it looked, so we thought it would be nice to throw open the doors for people to have a look inside and we will be on hand to talk to people about the design and construction of the house."

The open day will take place from 10pm to 4pm and people are welcome to just turn up without any need to book an appointment.

Firms urged to give work experience

EMPLOYERS in Mid Wales are being urged to offer more work experience placements to youngsters in a bid to boost job hunters.

Wales's commissioner for employment and skills, Scott Waddington, made the call following a major study showing that job experience is the most valued asset firms look for when hiring new recruits. Almost two thirds of employers from Mid Wales said they regarded relevant work experience as either a significant or critical requirement among those applying to join their workforces. However, less than a third of Mid Wales employers provide placement opportunities.

And the survey found that only 27 per cent offer such opportunities to those still in education. The figures emerged from a survey of 212 employers across Mid Wales. The figures showed that 26 per cent of all establishments across Mid Wales had hired one or more 16 to 24-year-olds in the past year though only 22 per cent of the firms had given jobs to those who had just completed their education. When asked how well prepared for work they found 17 to 18-year-old education leavers, Welsh employers found students from further education colleges more highly prepared than those straight from school. Mr Waddington said: "Clearly employers feel more comfortable hiring those who have some experience of their industry or job type so extending more opportunities to young people in education will help match the right people to the right jobs and help employers themselves find good calibre and well-motivated recruits."

He welcomed figures showing that a higher proportion of Welsh apprentices are on programmes lasting over two years than elsewhere in the UK.

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Firm offers friendly service



Shannon Sales is based in a former Victorian school in Chirk

IF you've never been to Shannon Sales, it's well worth a visit.

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The showroom is delightful to walk around,

being set as it is in a Victorian school. The building itself is Grade II listed, designed by AW Pugin and built in the mid 1800s.

The business was started in 1970 by a local couple, Sonny and Ann Jones, and is now run by their daughter assisted by a very helpful and capable team of staff. We are happy to lend

out both fabric and carpet samples so you can make your choice in your own home. We also happily lend out mirrors, pictures, lamps, coffee tables, nests, even small chests of drawers so you can see them in situ, and thus reducing the chances of buying a white elephant!

Enough about our lovely female staff, what



Shannon Sales staff Steph Wright, Cindy Roberts and Debbie Wright

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and then replace your furniture back onto your brand new carpet.

Staff at Shannon Sales and their friends will be walking up Snowdon in aid of Cancer Research on Sunday, May 24.

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Power plant in sheds plan has cleared big hurdle

AN energy plant planned for the Shropshire countryside has overcome a major hurdle after the Environment Agency said it had no objections to the scheme.

The agency has said it has no causes for concern for the anaerobic digester, which would be built by chicken sheds at Hollins Lane in Woodseaves, near Market Drayton.

It comes despite residents claiming the plant would lead to an increase in noise and dust and affect people using the Shropshire Union Canal.

Shropshire Council received about 10 objections about the impact on the environment and traffic.

Mark Davies, a planning specialist for the Environment Agency, said: "We have no objections to the proposed development."

He added there was a low fluvial flooding risk and that the proposed site was not close to any sites of special scientific interest.

But in a letter to Shropshire Council, Jocelyn Peach, of Tyrely, said: "Goods vehicle noise and pollution travelling across the field track/road from the proposed site to meet the Hinstock/Market Drayton Road needs to be considered."

"If granted then overall site noise levels and dust levels need to be restricted along with restrictions for the hours of arrivals and departures by heavy plant and vehicles. Potentially there are health implications due to fly infestations."

Resident John Knight said: "This stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal is amongst the most popular and beautiful in the entire canal system, and the enjoyment of thousands of canal users would be significantly impaired."

Applicant HLW Farms wants to build the plant to process chicken litter as well as crops to make enough electricity to become self-sufficient.

It is believed the plant could generate up to 800kW of electricity per hour, and energy not used on the farm would be fed into the local grid.

Farmer fined for not putting up a fence

A FARMER has been ordered to pay £14,000 for not putting up a fence.

David Richard Thomas, of Bryndraenog Farm, pleaded guilty to failing to stop his cattle polluting a water course that is home to a rare type of mussel.

The River Clun is among the few remaining breeding grounds of the endangered fresh water pearl mussel, and a protected habitat.

But Thomas had allowed cattle access to the banks of the River Unk, which feeds into the Clun, which resulted in "polluting matter" that could harm the mussels entering the water course, Telford Magistrate's Court heard.

Thomas had declined an offer to fund fencing that would stop the cattle getting access, and failed to act on a notice from the Environment Agency, served on January 20, to take action and install fencing on his land at Duttons, on the Shropshire border with Powys.

He was ordered to pay a £13,000 fine, plus £1,000 in costs and £120 victim surcharge.

Siobhan Bruce, speaking for the Environment Agency, said: "Freshwater Pearl Mussels are in serious decline and River Clun is one of the few remaining sites where they can be found. Failure to act to protect them could result in proceedings from the European Union."

"When Mr Thomas failed to install the fencing, Natural England and the Environment Agency offered to fund the work. Unfortunately, this offer was declined so the Environment Agency had no alternative but to serve Mr Thomas with a notice to carry out the work."

The action comes as Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership has secured over £360,000 from the WREN Biodiversity Action Fund, Woodland Trust and Severn Rivers Trust to work with landowners improve the condition of the River Clun Special Area of Conservation, a project which includes creating recovery sites for freshwater pearl mussels, which could die out in the next 20 years, it is feared.

Food for the future tops experts' agenda



Mimi, Simon, Anthea McIntyre, Kim Beynon

TOPICS about the future of our planet have been discussed by world-leading experts in the heart of Shropshire.

Scientists from across the UK descended on Harper Adams University to mull over how future generations will feed themselves.

The university, in Edgmond, near Newport, hosted the prestigious UK Plant Sciences Federation Conference 2015.

It looked at the challenges facing the globe as it has to cope with a rising population.

Closer to home they looked at subjects including insects on plants and diseases

that affect trees. This year, 130 plant scientist from around the county descended on Harper Adams for the two-day event.

Professor Simon Leather, a lecturer at Harper Adams who specialises in entomology, the science of insects, spoke about educating the next generation of plant scientists.

He said: "Very few people are going into plant science so we are asking why."

"A lot of things to do with it comes down to exposure. Nobody really gets to do etymology anywhere, we are the only university for example that teaches it as a degree. We need to be able to show plant

science is a career open to people. There are careers, jobs and salaries.

"This is a really good venue and I think the whole idea of the conference itself is this idea of getting plant science from all sorts of backgrounds together rather than just individuals disciplines discussing among themselves."

Mimi Tanimoto, of UK Plant and Science Federation and one of the event's organisers, said the idea of the conference was to bring together scientists from different disciplines.

She said: "A lot of science conferences are incredibly specialist."

Climbdown and more time to seek payments

THE Rural Payment Agency is to make paper forms available for farmers and agents to apply for the new Basic Payment Scheme, and the deadline has been extended by a month to June 15.

The announcement was made after the Rural Payments failed to bring the online system up to full functionality in time to meet application deadline. The online system will only need to be used for registration.

Sarah Reece at Berry's has expressed her despair at the situation. "I cannot believe what the RPA has done. So many questions remain unanswered which organisations including the CAAV and NFU are working hard to clarify," she said.

"It is extremely frustrating for us agents as we have been completing mainly online forms since 2011, therefore we will now have to implement an internal checking process of all paper forms, which will have to be photocopied before being delivered to RPA – very time consuming."

"This is all very frustrating – the day of the eclipse will be remembered by me for the day the BPS scheme turned on its head."

The RPA, in announcing the changes admitted that while the core and registration parts of the Rural Payments system are working well, there have been performance problems with the online interface that farmers and agents use.

Farmers and their agents will use established forms and processes to complete their claims by the deadline and the RPA will then input this data on to the system.

The RPA says it has ensured it has the resources it needs to undertake this work on time so that payments can be made to farmers from December 2015.

Apart from registering, farmers will not be asked to enter any further data online now.

Data that has already been entered onto the system has been saved and will be used. Two forms will be available to download

FARMING LATEST

Report by Thom Kennedy

from the RPA's website www.gov.uk. 1 RLE1, which allows claimants to transfer land and entitlements and make changes to their land; 1 BP5, the BPS claim form.

RPA Chief Executive, Mark Grimshaw said: "Having listened to feedback, the RPA will now combine existing forms that farming businesses are used to, with data that the Rural Payments system already has. This means that everyone who is registered and wants to complete a 2015 Basic Payment Scheme claim can do so."

The RPA will email all farmers and agents who have already registered on the Rural Payments website to provide further detail on completing and submitting claims.

For more information contact Berry's on 01743 271697 or email sarah.reece@berrybros.com.

The Farmers' Union of Wales is urging farmers to start completing their Single Application Forms (SAFs) as soon as possible as the May 15 submission deadline is not being extended in Wales.

The SAF completion process is the single most important form completion exercise being carried out by Welsh farmers since 2004, and the financial repercussions of errors on the forms are severe.

Defra confirmed in March that the deadline for submitting English forms had been extended to June 15 following the collapse of the English online application system and agreement by the EU that extensions would be allowed.

However, Rebecca Evans, Wales Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, announced that the Welsh Government would be sticking with the May 15 deadline as delaying the submission deadline would delay part-payments, thereby causing cash-flow problems for farmers, while also risking the loss of rural development funding.

"This year's form will establish farm payments for the foreseeable future," said Plaid Cymru head of policy Dr Nick Fenwick.



Farmers now have longer to complete the forms – and can do so manually

Keep dogs on a lead appeal by Sheep Association chief

DOG walkers are being asked to protect newborn lambs around the county by keeping their pets on a lead.

The National Sheep Association has said dogs chasing and attacking sheep is causing a major animal welfare problem on sheep farms across Britain, especially when ewes are heavily pregnant or have young lambs.

With increasing numbers of sheep worrying incidents being reported, NSA chief executive Phil Stocker has called for dog owners to be extra vigilant during the lambing season and to keep their pets on a lead around livestock.

"Despite previous campaigns, the number of reported dog attacks on ewes and lambs continues to rise," Mr Stocker said.

"Our members have told us of some really terrible attacks on their flocks that could be prevented simply by dogs being kept on leads around sheep."

Along with the horrific injuries dogs can cause when they bite sheep, there are additional risks that being

chased by a dog can cause. Stress caused by chasing can result in pregnant ewes aborting their lambs, and lambing problems when they come to give birth. Chasing and attacks by dogs can also break the essential bond between a newborn lamb and its mother.

Mr Stocker, said: "When lambs are born they create a life-giving bond with their mother. They can identify her within a field full of sheep and know where to get the milk upon which they depend for the first weeks of life.

Abandoned

If a group of sheep containing very young lambs is chased by a dog, the disruption and stress breaks that bond and can lead to lambs being abandoned, threatening the life of that lamb and causing a great deal of anxiety to the ewe and her young.

"Allowing your dog to worry livestock is a criminal offence and can lead to prosecution and expensive legal fees. Attacks can also result in dogs being destroyed."

A recent survey carried out by NSA indicated that at least half dog worrying incidents occurred in private, in an enclosed field with no footpath, which it suggests the dogs were either unsupervised or not kept under close control.

Mr Stocker, said: "It's possible that many dog owners don't believe their docile pet is capable of causing such damage to livestock. People trust their dogs but it's too late once the animal has chased or attacked sheep."

"We believe the only way to reduce these figures is through education and the enforcement of the regulations. This means encouraging farmers to display signs on footpaths on their land and using the full strength of the law to prosecute owners who dogs worry sheep."

"While we don't want to discourage dog walkers from enjoying the countryside, it's imperative that they make sure their pets are under control. If they chase or attack livestock, the results can be devastating for the farmer and the dog owner."

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Farm and bungalow sold for £625,000 at public auction

A small North Shropshire arable and grassland farm with a five bedroomed bungalow and a range of traditional and modern farm buildings sold for £625,000 at a public auction on Friday.

The 52-acre White Gates Farm, Peplow, Market Drayton was sold on behalf of the executors of the late Derick Davies by auctioneers Halls at the company's Shrewsbury headquarters.

Country residence has a garden stream

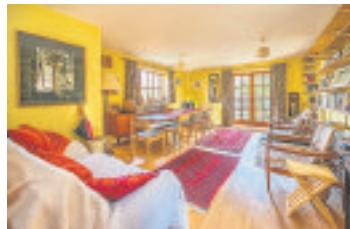
A detached country residence, Spring Cottage in the Candy Valley is just a 10 minute drive from Oswestry, in a sought after location. Having a garden with a stream running through it, it is for sale through Woodhead Estates at £319,950.

It has a timber porch, an entrance hall with tiled flooring and dog leg staircase off, a living room with an exposed stone recess with

a multi-fuel stove and slate hearth, a kitchen with a breakfast bar, integrated electric oven with an electric hob, integrated dishwasher, integrated fridge and door out to the rear garden.

There is also a dining room with French doors, a downstairs shower room, landing with enviable views, a master bedroom with a built-in double wardrobe, two further

bedrooms (one with exposed beams), a bathroom, utility room, parking for a few cars, front, side and rear garden with log stores and woodland, fruit trees and a Nissan style hut for storage. The land is around 2.5 acres and is sloping so is not suitable as grazing land. For further information contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com



Home offers spacious family living and very large garden

Offering spacious family living, Sherwood, Holyhead Road, Chirk, is on the market through Town & Country for £225,000.

The large detached family home has three double bedrooms and a fourth bedroom/playroom, family bathroom, reception hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, study area, conservatory and downstairs shower room with WC. Outside there is ample off-road parking for several vehicles and a very large corner plot rear garden. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for more details.



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Former farmhouse has landscaped gardens

A detached former farmhouse, Foxes Lodge on By Pass Road in Gobowen, is situated at the end of a private driveway and located in a popular village.

The property has very secluded landscaped gardens and is on the market through Town & Country for £239,500. Accommodation briefly comprises a living room, sitting area, sitting room/dining room, kitchen, utility room, two separate WCs, three bedrooms and bathroom/shower room. Externally is a double garage and ample off road parking and landscaped gardens. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for details.

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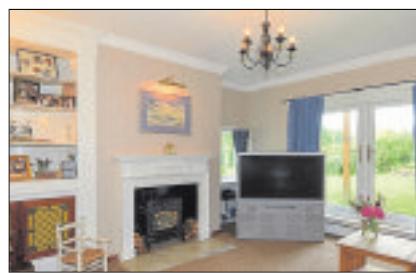
Tel: 01691 679631



Home has stunning views over countryside

A rurally located detached cottage, Brwynog at Llanfihangel is on the market with Morris Marshall and Poole for £239,500. The property has stunning extensive views over the adjoining countryside. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room, study, living room, kitchen, a bathroom and three bedrooms. Outside pathways and steps give access to the enclosed gardens which comprise lawns, orchard, paved and grass seating areas, attached 'boiler' house with oil-fired boiler, detached stone and timber built sheds. For more details contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01691 679595.

M | M | P



Attractive extended cottage used to be two homes

Laburnum Cottage, Gwern y Brenin, Oswestry is an attractive extended cottage in a rural location just three miles from town with very good access. It is for sale through Balfours at £399,950. It has an entrance hall, sitting room, snug, kitchen/dining room, utility room, a conservatory, boot room, cloakroom, master bedroom with a balcony and en-suite, a shower room, family bathroom, three further bedrooms, a paddock, field shelter and garage. The period property was originally two cottages and has been extended to create a wonderful family house. For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

Balfours
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS



Four bedroom property has period features throughout

This is a rare opportunity to purchase a spacious four bedroom semi-detached property. Greystones Court on Shrewsbury Road is situated on the fringe of the popular market town of Oswestry. The property has period features throughout and offers flexible living accommodation including large entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, boiler room, cellar, four large bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally the property is approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio and ample off road parking. Offers in the region of £295,000. Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 652367.

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NEW

**Rhiwlas
Nr Oswestry**

£210,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a substantial 3 Bedroom Farmhouse with adjoining 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Standing in approximately 3 acres of pasture land, hill grazing and amenity woodland
- The property sits within an enviable position within the Berwyn Mountains between the villages of Rhiwlas and Tregereirg with stunning views
- Both properties are in need of a scheme of modernisation but have the potential to create an excellent family residence.

NEW

**Liverpool Road
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£139,995

- A well appointed and spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden with two brick built outside storage sheds.
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating

NEW

**Park Street
Oswestry**

£267,500

- Spacious and well presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a generous corner plot in a popular residential area
- Entrance Hall, Family Room/Study, Dining Room, Lounge
- Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Private off road parking, single detached garage
- Well maintained front and rear gardens.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

NEW

**Cabin Lane
Oswestry**

£174,995

- Superbly presented & well maintained 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Conservatory
- 3 bedrooms (2 of which are double) and Family Bathroom
- Driveway parking and single garage together with an enclosed rear garden
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

NEW

**Sweeney Drive
Morda, Oswestry**

£199,995

- A well presented and spacious 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks, 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Driveway parking, single garage and well maintained front and rear gardens
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating C

NEW

**Maesbrook
Nr Oswestry**

£35,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase 4.77 acres (1.93 hectares) or thereabouts of pasture land located just outside the village of Maesbrook
- The land currently has two gateways onto the Council maintained lane and is laid to pasture offering a host of future agricultural or equine recreational opportunities
- The land has the benefit of mains water together with a number of drainage ditches and a small pond.

NEW PRICE

**Churchfields
St Martins**

£136,495

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- The property was constructed approx 10 years ago
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cloaks, 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Driveway & garage with good size rear garden
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C

NEW

**Oak Drive
Oswestry**

£169,995

- An immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room with Walk In Pantry, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms (2 of which are double) and Family Bathroom
- Driveway parking and garage together with a private enclosed rear garden.
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

**Glentworth Avenue
Oswestry**

£220,000

- Spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a generous plot on the edge of Oswestry town
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility, Sun Room, 4 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size front and rear gardens, driveway and garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

**Maes Yr Eglwys
Llansantffraid**

£199,995

- Spacious 3 bedroom detached bungalow within a quiet cul-de-sac
- With established gardens & views to the rear
- Hallway, Lounge, Open plan Kitchen/Dining Rm
- Conservatory, Utility, 3 Beds (Master Ensuite) & Bath
- Double Garage & ample off road parking
- Electric storage heaters & D/G. EPC Rating D

**Breidden Close
Oswestry**

£194,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen
- Cloakroom, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden together with driveway
- Off-road parking, carport and detached garage
- Lawned garden to the front of the property
- Gas C/H and double glazing. EPC Rating

NEW PRICE

**Aston Way
Oswestry**

£142,500

- An excellent 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Dining Rm, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Private rear garden with timber garden sheds & summerhouse
- Large driveway provides ample off-road parking.
- D/G, Gas C/H & cavity wall insulation. EPC 'D'

Oswestry

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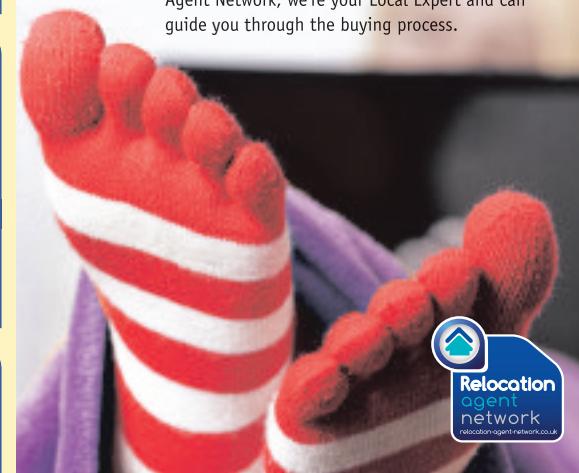


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- 2-bedroom semi-detached house
- Recent re-decorated throughout
- Gas fired central heating
- Enclosed private rear garden
- EPC Rating: E

£650 pcm

Benbow Quay, Shrewsbury



- 1-bedroom 2nd floor Apartment
- Popular modern development
- Close to town and train station
- Allocated car parking
- EPC Rating: D

£495 pcm

Church Stretton



- 2-bed mid-terrace modern house
- Well presented throughout
- Enclosed rear garden area
- Allocated car parking
- Good local amenities
- EPC Rating: C

£500 pcm

Orchard Lane, Hanwood



- 3-bed detached bungalow
- Central heating & double glazing
- Delightful gardens with views
- Village location
- Local amenities nearby
- EPC Rating: D

£650 pcm

Smithfield Road, Oswestry



LET

- 2-bed split-level Apartment
- Gas central heating
- Well maintained throughout
- Town centre location
- Sorry no pets
- EPC Rating: E

£450 pcm

Sandford Court, Church Stretton



LET

- 2-bed modern apartment
- Gas fired central heating
- Workshop/Store & Garage
- Convenient town location
- EPC Rating: C

£525 pcm

Greenfields, Shrewsbury



LET

- 2-bed first Floor Apartment
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Allocated car parking
- Good location with nearby amenities
- Walking distance to town centre
- EPC Rating: C

£595 pcm

Brockton, Near Worthen



LET

- 2-bed Ground Floor Apartment
- Well maintained accommodation
- Parking and rear garden area
- Rural Views to the rear
- Village amenities nearby
- EPC Rating: E

£400 pcm

Tilbrook Drive, Shrewsbury



LET

- 2-bed semi-detached bungalow
- Gas central heating
- Garden areas and garage
- Established residential area
- EPC Rating: D

£575 pcm

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LET

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- LPG gas central heating
- Good sized gardens
- Rural village location
- EPC rating: F

£595 pcm

Cherry Orchard, Shrewsbury



LET

- 2-bedroom semi-detached house
- Sitting room with woodburner
- Cellar and outside toilet
- Gas fired central heating
- Nice rear garden
- EPC Rating: D

£650 pcm

Shrewsbury Town Centre



LET

- 1-bed first floor apartment
- Recarpeted throughout
- Intercom entry system
- Town centre location
- EPC Rating: F

£500 pcm

Dorrington, Near Shrewsbury



LET

- Detached 3-bedroom house
- Master Bedroom with en suite
- Gas fired central heating
- Off-road car parking and gardens
- EPC Rating: D

£695 pcm

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Ruyton XI Towns | Shropshire

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Home office | 5 Bedrooms | Family bathroom | Jack and Jill bathroom | En-suite shower room
Double garage | Gardens | EPC rating C

Guide price £499,950

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tom.wright@struttandparker.com



Llansanffraid | Powys

Llanymynech 3.1 miles, Oswestry 8.3 miles, Welshpool 10.7 miles

A unique former watermill with river frontage and fishing rights
Hall | Open plan kitchen/living room and dining room | Utility room | Shower room | 6 Bedrooms
3 Bathrooms (2 en-suite) | Study/bedroom 7 | Balcony | Decked area | EPC rating C

Guide price £465,000

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Caersws | Powys

Guide price £595,000

A stunning Welsh oak framed property with ancillary accommodation, double garage, and barn, surrounded by beautiful rolling countryside and standing in about 1.6 acres of grounds. Further land available
2 Reception rooms | Office | Kitchen/breakfast room | Garden room | Utility
3 Bedrooms | 4 Bath/shower rooms | Double garage | Annex, comprising a bedroom and shower room | Barn | EPC rating C

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Please note
this Saturday's
Open Day at
Nantcribbau
Barns, Forden has
been postponed
until further notice



Montgomery | Powys

Guide price £425,000

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CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Lodges and treehouses ready for new season

EXPERIENCE the captivating new enchanted village, a quirky woodland hideaway located in woodland next to the Alton Towers Hotel.

The Enchanted Village offers a distinctive short break for guests to stay in lodges and luxury treehouses.

The luxury treehouses will sleep groups of up to eight people and all have four separate bedrooms with their own 50 inch plasma TV.

Each has its own unique style, with luxury furnishings, self-catering facilities and a relaxing lounge area with TV and games console.

The outdoor decking area, with private hot tub offers a great place to unwind, with beautiful views.

The fantastical woodland lodges will provide perfect family accommodation sleeping five people.

Guests can relax on their outdoor decking area, children can have fun in the quirky play areas around the village and can make use of the free car parking and easy access to the theme park and the rest of the resort. Also launching in 2015 is the enchanted forest tree top quest.

This fantastical high ropes course surrounding the Enchanted Village features two courses – a high ropes and low ropes that families can enjoy together.

Guests can swing from the trees as they navigate their way through the forest, starting from the quirky turret tower. They must then negotiate transverse nets, swing tyres and stepping stones before hurtling back down to earth the 85m zipwire.

Those with a head for heights can tackle the series of obstacles and even zipwire through an enclosed tunnel.

At the end of the day, guests can relax and unwind in The Crooked Spoons restaurant – new to the Enchanted Village – and savour the delights of the fantastically themed menu. The enchanted lodges and luxury treehouses are now available to book.

Visit www.altontowers.com for more information. Accommodation starts from £31.25 pp per night.

Busy line-up of events at stately home

A LINE-UP of fairs, walks and family days out will welcome the spring season at Weston Park, the magnificent stately home on the Shropshire/Staffordshire borders.

Known for its beautiful gardens and Capability Brown parkland, Weston is a maze of colour at this time of year, with bluebells, rhododendrons and daffodils peppering the 1,000 acre estate.

May see the Spring Plant Fair, bluebell walks, a dawn chorus walk and Spring Food & Craft Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25.

The show offers a chance to get up close to hundreds of classic cars, motorcycles, period camper vans and iconic American models.

Food and drink stalls from local producers and a children's fun fair make for a fun-filled family day out.

Sunday admission: adults £9, children £3 / Monday admission: adults £8, children £3.

Hunt for the new and exotic on Sunday and Monday May 3 and 4 (10am-4pm) when the Plant Hunter's Fair lands at Weston Park.

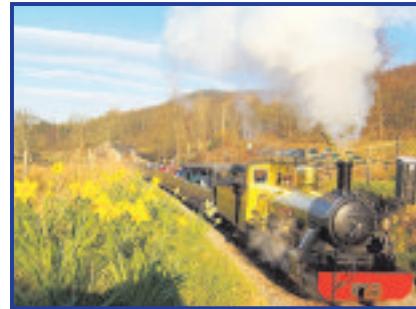
This is a garden lover's paradise with award-winning plants, a huge selection of nurseries and a chance to pick up tips from expert growers.

There are woodland walks, lakes and beautiful formal gardens to explore, and the 17th century house with its famous art collection will be open for tours. Fair and gardens admission: £3 / house admission: £2.

Get lost in a maze of colour: Bluebell Walk on Sunday, May 10 (starting at 10.30am and 2pm).

Head Gardener Martin Gee leads a four mile guided walk through blankets of bluebells and avenues of azaleas.

The particularly beautiful Temple Wood is filled with colour and perfume, as the rhododendrons and azaleas come into full bloom. Guided walk: adults £6, children £3. Call 01952 852100.



Ravenglass and Eskdale steam railway in action



Historic Muncaster Castle with views to Scafell Pike



The beautiful coastal hamlet of Ravenglass

A country excursion that's fit for royalty

ONE OF THE MOST NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL REGIONS IN ENGLAND, THE LAKE DISTRICT HAS LONG INSPIRED THE NATION.

HOLIDAYS

Report by Lisa Bailey

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntrye in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in countless tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere – the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers – the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse at the south of the village to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigors of driving for a couple of days.

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings in the most glamorous of settings.

One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into

our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike – England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see exactly why.

The grounds are extensive, hosting many luscious walks, and there is the World Owl Centre – home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl among its 50 species of owls and other birds of prey.

When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great locations to recharge with food and drink.

The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevy of locally brewed ales to enjoy by an open fire in the colder months.

With Halloween proving a hugely popular pull at Muncaster, all the pubs join in the festivities through creative decorations designed to get a scream or two from unsuspecting customers.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction.

Family-friendly and with most hotels, pubs and restaurants welcoming dogs it is easy to ease the days away exploring the various peaks and fells to see what natural delights are to be found.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-orientated Windermere isn't quite to your taste than you can do much worse than head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater – the second largest expanse of water.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.



Some of the spectacular scenery you will see if you visit the Lake District

Café culture and an abundance of perfect beaches

THERE are few finer spring destinations than Pembrokeshire.

With millions of daffodils painting the landscape yellow and spring lambs in the field, it's truly idyllic. Located on the south west tip of Wales, Pembrokeshire is one of the most beautiful spots in the British Isles.

The county comprises Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the only one of its kind in the UK. Pembrokeshire's beaches are to die for and have won numerous accolades, including International Blue Flag, Green Coast and Seaside Awards. The county's southern extremity is nicknamed Little England Beyond Wales.

There are numerous locations for visitors, including the picturesque Saundersfoot, Broad Haven South, Tenby, Narberth and St David's.

Where to stay: From guest houses and B&Bs to self-catering cottages and caravans, and from bunk houses and farms to spas and deluxe hotels, Pembrokeshire has it all. Extensive listings at www.visitpembrokeshire.com



The county boasts exceptional wildlife and is an internationally important seabird breeding site.

The landscape is inspiring, with prehistoric sites and, remarkably, a prehistoric quarry from which the Stonehenge stones were thought to have been quarried.

Outdoor pursuits include kite surfing, horse riding, golf, powerboating, walking, mountain biking and walking are all popular. Pembrokeshire is intrinsically arty and there are potters, festivals and numerous galleries and craft outlets in addition to museums.

Where to eat/drink: Café culture is alive and well. Stop off at the Pebbles Yard Gallery and Espresso Bar, in St David's, which showcases the photographs by locally-based, world photographer Jacki Sime. Italian coffee, smoothies, homemade cakes and soup together with paninis, pittas, wholemeal sandwiches and salads are all freshly prepared to order. How to get there: There are no motorways, though roads in Pembrokeshire have been significantly improved.

Any tips for days out, holidays or places to visit? Email your ideas to lisa.bailey@shropshirestar.co.uk



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Picture focus

33

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, April 23, 2015



Families flocked to the VW van show. Photos: Laura Dutfield.



Tracey Deakin with her 1967 split screen VW



Andrew Chaddock proudly shows off his homemade van



Flynn Beltane attended the VW show at Oswestry Showground with his 'Molly Brown' 1967 split screen

Crowds flock to vehicle show

Report by Rebecca King

THOUSANDS of people gathered for a festival celebrating one of the best-known vehicles ever to take to the road – the Volkswagen camper van. The Bus Types VW Show, held at Oswestry Showground, saw enthusiasts from across the country come together to show off their vehicles.

The three-day event at the weekend featured displays, a trade and auto jumble sale and live entertainment in the evenings. The event was a true celebration of the iconic vehicle.

First built in the 1950s, the van has received numerous nicknames worldwide, including the "microbus", "minibus", and, because of its popularity during the counterculture movement of the 1960s, "Hippie van".

An event spokesman said: "It went really well, the event was a really good one."

"We haven't counted up the numbers yet but these shows always see thousands of people and we had a lot here."

"It was good. We had people coming to buy

parts, people coming to show their vans and all sorts."

"We get mainly enthusiasts who want to come and bring their van to this kind of event and we had more than 180 trade stalls as well."

"They sold parts, memorabilia and all sorts of VW things."

"But people don't have to have the vans to come, a lot of people like to look around them."

"We do get quite a lot of rare models here and people who spend a lot of time on their vans."

"Another part of the event is the entertainment – people camp over quite a lot of the time so we have entertainment in the evening and live bands for people to enjoy."

"It was a really successful show, we are really pleased with how it has gone."

The event also saw trophies awarded, a fancy dress party, a fun fair and children's entertainment.

Among the visitors to the Bus Types VW Show was Sarah Jones from Art of Classic, Manchester, who spent a day drawing some of the classic vehicles.



The show allowed people to get a close-up view of the vehicles



Sarah Jones drew some of the vehicles on show



Thousands of people attended the popular show



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Army units in 'battle' over trophy from castle



The "pineapple" architectural feature – seen here as the castle is blown up – has survived to this day

WHEN Tong Castle was blown up by the Army in the 1950s there was, it appears, a

battle between two military units to claim a

trophy from the rubble – a "pineapple".

In the end, neither got to keep the distinctive

ornamental stone. Instead, it was retrieved by a

local farmer – and still exists to this day.

"It's in my garden, just as a garden ornament," a pensioner farmer told us after our recent feature about the dramatic destruction of Tong Castle brought back memories for him.

And he was also able to provide details of a tragedy which led to the demolition of the castle, which happened in July 1954.

The gentleman who contacted us lived in Tong at the time, being the son of a local farmer, but now lives in Staffordshire. However, he asked not to be named.

"I remember Tong Castle from my childhood. It was not really a military castle, but a folly, I suppose, that was put up as a mansion."

First, the sandstone "pineapple". It can be seen in one of the photos we published sticking out as an ornamental feature on the top of the building.

"That was the crowning glory. That's in our garden. It's very weathered now but it is shaped and carved to appear to be a pineapple. The two Army units were the Royal Engineers, and I can't remember the other, but they had a dispute about who should claim this trophy. The commanding officer said that neither of them should do so, so they left it behind and bowled it down the bank to the bottom, from where we recovered it. I think we claimed it at the time. It's rather sinful of us, but it was 1954."

"The thing is about a quarter of a ton in weight."

Our contributor also told of the accident in which a local lad lost his life as a result of a fall while climbing the ruins.

"His name was Michael Twomey. I remember him. His father was Irish and a wagoner. He lived at Tong Park. These lads were larking about. Only the front facade was still there. Other lads who were with him said he had got up somewhere near the top. Your photograph was taken from the front, and they were climbing up in the rear. Most of the rear was demolished. I think there might have been remnants of staircases. It's such a long time ago."

"It fascinated these lads and they decided to climb up. He was younger than me, 16 or 17, something like that."

"The sad thing is that when he fell he was not killed outright. He was hardly even knocked unconscious, but he was paralysed after the fall and lingered for many months in hospital. They were not able to repair his injury. These days medical skills are far better."

"It was only a year or so before the castle was blown up and was the justification for blowing it up. It was regarded as a dangerous ruin, which it patently was. You couldn't stop these lads going and larking about there. It was on Lord Bradford's land and he thought there was no architectural interest in this thing and it was better for the safety of all that it was brought to the ground."

"It was a sad thing for the family. He was a completely decent lad in every way. The witnesses said that as he was climbing up a loose stone, or sandstone, slipped away from under his feet and he hadn't got enough of a hand hold to prevent himself falling. He fell from quite a height though rubble partly broke his fall."



The young rebels in 1950 pictured outside Marton Congregational Chapel



The end of the story – children from Marton School at a farewell service in July 1984

Rebellion which made national headlines

THE village of Marton, south west of Shrewsbury, was an unlikely place for a rebellion, but in 1949 villagers rose up in a revolt which was to last four years and made national headlines and created a stir in Whitehall.

And the issue which sparked it was as topical today as it was then – the closure of the village school.

When Shropshire education committee decided to close Marton Church of England School because of falling numbers, the villagers wouldn't wear it.

Instead, they hired their own teacher and set up what was dubbed Marton Rebel School.

At first it was in the old vicarage, before settling in the Congregational Hall – after the fracas the hall became the village hall.

For four years, from 1949 to 1953, the villagers ran an independent school, organising functions like coffee evenings, rummage sales, whist drives, and prize draws to pay the teacher – who received £3 a week – and for books, equipment and maintenance.

Battle

The biggest headache the campaigners faced was getting teachers, and for a while there was quite a turnover.

In the last two years the teacher was Mrs Muriel Taylor, nee Rowlands, of Leighton, near Welshpool, and as she could not drive, the parents gave her a lift to and from the school every day.

All the time, as the rebel school continued to operate in the Congregational Hall, campaigners were lobbying for the reopening of the "real" school which lay empty just a stone's throw away.

The villagers won the battle but ultimately, as anybody in Marton today will be able to tell you, lost the war.

In a face-saving compromise, and apparently under pressure from the Government, the county council announced in October 1953 that Marton School would reopen, but as an annexe to Chirbury School, with a

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

Mrs Davies at Chirbury as headteacher of both schools.

Not everybody in Marton was happy, but it was the best deal they could get.

The upshot was that in 1954 Marton School was reopened as an annexe to Chirbury.

And when Mrs Davies retired in 1968, the Marton villagers asked the county council for their school's independence once more, which was granted with Mrs White as headteacher.

The story came to an end on July 20, 1984, when, with comparatively little fuss, Marton School finally closed for good, having enjoyed a 30-year reprieve.

By that time there were 23 pupils, aged five to 11.

One of the campaigners of that big village effort of over 60 years ago was Mrs Hilda Francis, whose children Pam and John both went to the rebel school.

Recalling those days, speaking 10 years ago, she said: "We all pulled together and worked jolly hard for the sake of our children."

"All the community was up in arms. In a small rural area, when a school is closed, the community disappears."

She was not certain how many pupils were at the school at the time of its original closure in 1949, but thought it was in the low 20s.

Then it had two staff, one teaching children up to 11, and the other being the infant teacher.

She recalled that the rebel school started off with about 20 pupils, although one family "defected" and went by car to Chirbury which saw the numbers drop.

Her husband Arthur was also active in the campaign, and would sell draw tickets in the market on Mondays.

"One person said to him: 'I've bought enough tickets to build a new school, never mind find it!'"



Mrs Muriel Taylor teaching at the Marton Rebel School back in 1953

Putting flesh on the bones in the tale of bodies in trench

THANKS to David Hull of Market Drayton, we're starting to put some flesh on the bones of a tale of bodies from the Battle of Blore Heath being discovered by workmen in the town over 50 years ago.

And from his account, a lot of mythology has become woven into the story over the years.

In a feature the other day, we told how workmen laying a water main near Salisbury Hill uncovered five skeletons which, it was surmised, were victims of the battle in 1459. They were supposedly reburied without any undue fuss.

Mr Hull thinks he is probably the only person left who knows the truth.

"I was there, on site. Most of the story you published is not correct," said Mr Hull, who is now 70 and lives in Farcroft Drive, although at the time was living in Shrewsbury Road.

"It was a water main that we were laying and it was

only three feet deep. There were not five bodies at all. At a maximum, there were two."

"Me and another fellow, Bill Ellis, were digging a trench to lay a water pipe up the site. It was half way up on the right hand side of the footpath in Salisbury Hill View. It must have been after 1962 and could have been 1963 to 1964. I would have been 17 or 18 and was working for a firm called John Caldicott, who used to do the work for Market Drayton Water Company."

"We were laying the main and came across the body. The guy kept chucking the bones out onto the pile of rubble. We didn't know it was a body until we got to the head. It was a crushed skull. I went for a bag and put the bones in a barrow. He was left by the site office for two or three days and then just disappeared."

"I assume the police came and fetched it and I never heard anything more about it."

"There was definitely one whole one. There certainly weren't five. We were on site all week or for a fortnight

and nothing more was found to my knowledge. We didn't think too much of it. When we were digging this trench it was all sand, so it was all done by hand with shovels and so on. When we realised what we had found I went to the site office to tell them. Nobody was interested, to be honest. I grabbed a barrow and put him in."

Mr Hull said he was told later on that the skeleton was from the Battle of Blore Heath.

"His skull was pretty flat. He had a good set of teeth, that's all I can tell you."

Our story was the first time he had seen anything mentioned about the find.

"There was talk that there was a body found there in full armour, which is not true."

The discovery had come during the building of new bungalows and Mr Hull says he uses the footpath where the bones were found on most days.

"I've told many people what happened that day. Nobody took it up. This is the first I've seen of it."

Perfect time to witness life among the lily pads

BEING a naturalist in Shropshire, one is spoilt for choice when it comes to birds.

There are dozens of species and they are coming and going all the time. In the summer, insects are bountiful and it is possible to seek out many different kinds of mammal from small to large at any time of the year. However as someone who has a real passion for herpetofauna, we are, it must be admitted, slightly lacking in diversity; then again, so is the whole UK.

Reptiles and amphibians, those creatures that make up a group known as herptiles, are widespread in Britain, but localised in their populations; thus they can be hard to see.

But in April there is no excuse for not getting acquainted with our commonest member of the group, the common frog. You may well have seen these well-known yet extraordinary animals lurking in your garden pond of late and many a primary school pupil will know that now is the time to see them spawning and watch the tadpoles grow through the process of metamorphosis.

Whenever I am on holiday in warmer and far off lands, it is the reptiles and amphibians that really eject me from my beach chair and lure me into the tropical forests, but of course one can get just as much pleasure from watching our own species of herbs. We all know about the frog's life cycle and its exceptional ability to survive our occasionally harsh winters at the bottom of ponds, encased in mud and the like, but how about

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



its everyday life? Amphibians have been on earth for at least the last 250 million years.

The name of this class of animals reflects the fact that while the adults are largely terrestrial, they must return to the water to breed. This is because the eggs are unprotected by a shell and would therefore dry out if laid on land.

But to do this the adults of course must survive this far (two to three years until they reach breeding age). The common frog is a remarkably variable animal. Individuals range from colour from greens and browns right through to yellows and oranges, but they may not always appear so.

Just like tropical chameleons, they can change to tone of their skin depending on their environment. So a light orange frog one day, may well be a greenish yellow the next. Also like a chameleon, our frogs will expel their tongues from their mouths in a flash to catch their invertebrate prey; quite a sight if you're patient and lucky enough to see it.

But for now we can perhaps be content to watch them laying their eggs and croaking to each other. Frogs are on the decline and need all the help they can get, so a small pond in the back garden is ideal. Often a night-time sortie with a torch at this time of the year will pick out the males competing for females.



A common frog photographed in Ben's garden pond

The croaking you may be able to hear are the males trying to attract a mate and they can do so even underwater. Successful males cling onto the back of the female and fertilise the eggs as the female lays them. This process is known as external fertilisation. Huge numbers of eggs are laid, but few of them will ever reach adulthood. A large communal clump of spawn may contain up to and over 25,000 eggs, but if 20 of those embryos survive into breeding age, the females will have done well. Ben's Summer Art Safari is filling up. Check out benwaddams.com for details.

More workers hired by area's health bosses

MORE than 80 nurses have been recruited from overseas to work in Shropshire's hospitals.

It comes as part of a recruitment drive to fill staff nurse vacancies and reduce the use of expensive agency or temporary staff at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

A total of more than 150 new staff nurses, including those from abroad, and health care assistants (HCAs) have been recruited to work at Shropshire's two acute hospitals in the last couple of months.

The new health staff will work at either of the two hospitals and some have already taken up their posts.

Recruits hired at home and abroad in recent months include around 100 staff nurses and around 70 health care assistants, most of which are on permanent contracts, with the rest recruited for the hospitals' bank of temporary staff.

Of these, 72 staff nurses were hired from the Philippines, a further 17 from recruitment events at RSH earlier this month, eight from Italy and a further two from Denmark.

All of the recent 69 HCA appointments were recruited following information days held at RSH and PRH earlier this year. Recruitment, specifically for registered nurses, will continue with weekly interviews underway among other initiatives. Trusts across England and Wales are increasingly resorting to recruiting nurses from overseas because there are not enough British-trained applicants to fill places, with some interviewed by Skype.

Sarah Bloomfield, director of nursing and quality at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Our staff nurse and health care assistants deliver excellent care to our patients at both RSH and PRH."

"Our recruitment has focused on ensuring our new recruits display the caring and compassionate qualities we rightly require to provide the highest standard of care possible for our patients."

"We have said consistently that we want to recruit more nurses to reduce our reliance on agency and temporary staff. Our trust is not alone – the situation is reflected nationally – so we have been looking at number of innovations we can introduce to recruit staff locally, across the UK and overseas. We'll continue our efforts to ensure that over the coming months we will see more permanent staff on our wards as our new starters get settled in, which will mean better continuity of care and more support for ward teams."

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Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Limited Edition 1.2, 3dr in Flame Red on orders received between 8 April and 1 July 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,682, then 23 monthly rentals of £149. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 6.64p/mile. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indeemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. You will not own the car. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. ^Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18+ to qualify for a test drive. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.

**Casualty**

9.20pm

As a new shift starts at Holby, Connie (Amanda Mealing) wakes up in a police cell, desperate to prove her innocence in the Alfred case. Two teenage lovers are brought in after a house fire suspected of being arson, and a young woman catches Lofty's eye when she comes in with an infected tattoo.

**Live Snooker: The World Championship**

4.30pm

Hazel Irvine introduces further coverage of the afternoon session at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the final ranking tournament on the calendar continues with two second-round matches. Dennis Taylor, John Virgo and Terry Griffiths commentate.

**Ninja Warrior UK**

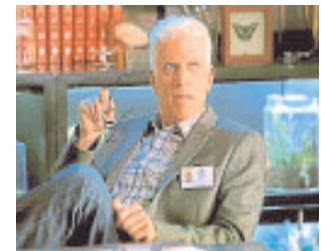
7pm

Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the third heat of the obstacle-course challenge. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – before progressing to the semi-finals.

**For the Love of Cars**

7pm

Philip Glenister and renowned car designer Ant Anstead take another trip around the barns and lock-ups of Britain, returning classic motors to their former glory. They begin in Hertfordshire with an Aston Martin DBS – the model driven by George Lazenby in the Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

**CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**

10.10pm

A car that used to belong to murderer Lucas Reem is being sold off at a convention dedicated to serial killer memorabilia when the body of auction house employee Damon Harlow is discovered inside. Crime drama, starring Ted Danson.

BBC1

- 6.00** Breakfast.
- 9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. With actor Stanley Tucci.
- 10.10** World War One Remembered: Gallipoli. The Queen leads tributes from the Cenotaph memorial, London, in a service to commemorate those who died during the Battle of Gallipoli between April 1915 and January 1916. Highlights on BBC2 at 5.30pm.
- 12.05** BBC News: Weather.
- 12.15** Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's fixtures.
- 1.00** Paula Radcliffe: The Marathon and Me. The marathon world record-holder looks back on her career.
- 1.40** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents as the eighth day's play continues at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match is scheduled to conclude and another begins. Coverage continues on BBC2.
- 4.30** Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
- 5.10** FILM: The Princess and the Frog (2009). A waitress and an arrogant prince try to break the spell that has turned them into frogs. Disney animated musical fantasy, with the voices of Anika Noni Rose and Bruno Campos.
- 6.40** BBC News.
- 6.50** Midlands Today: Weather.
- 6.55** Pointless Celebrities. Kate Garraway, Richard Arnold, Fenn Britton, Matthew Wright, Dermot Murnaghan and Natasha Kaplinsky are among the morning TV stars past and present competing for charity.
- 7.45** Atlantis. Pasiphaë tries to force Ariadne to renounce the throne, and with Jason and Hercules powerless to help, Medusa and Pythagoras come up with a plan requiring an unimaginable sacrifice.
- 8.30** The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz in which contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draw, presented by Kate Garraway, with music by Lawson.
- 9.20** Casualty. Loftie teaches a patient to have more self-worth.
- 10.10** BBC News: Weather.
- 10.30** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium and Burnley v Leicester City at Turf Moor; National Lottery Update.
- 12.00** The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Fulham v Middlesbrough.
- 1.20** FILM: A Bronx Tale (1993). An honest, hard-working man watches helplessly as his teenage son is drawn into the criminal underworld. Crime drama, directed by and starring Robert De Niro. With Chazz Palminteri.
- 3.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.10** FILM: The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingos (2008). Documentary following a flamingo colony.
- 7.20** FILM: Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960). Robin Hood adventure, starring Richard Greene.
- 8.40** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. Entertainment landmarks. Last in the series. (R)
- 9.10** The Nature of Britain. Alan Titchmarsh explores Britain's wildernesses. (R)
- 10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Day eight gets underway in Sheffield.
- 12.00** Richard Harris: Talking Pictures. A retrospective look at TV appearances made by actor Richard Harris.
- 12.35** FILM: The Long and the Short and the Tall (1960). Second World War drama, starring Laurence Harvey.
- 2.15** Flog It! The team heads to Tatton Park in Cheshire. (R)
- 3.00** Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
- 4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
- 5.30** World War One Remembered: Gallipoli Highlights. Another chance to see parts of the service broadcast earlier on BBC1.
- 6.30** Gardeners' World. As everything in the garden begins to shoot up, Monty Don uses his ornamental grasses to demonstrate how best to lift and divide perennials. Plus, a third trip to South Africa. (R)
- 7.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches are set to take place, including one to a conclusion.
- 8.00** Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are assigned to guard a vital telephone line through the night, but wake to find an unexploded bomb caught in the wires. (R)
- 8.30** FILM: When Murdoch Went to War. Docu-drama telling the story behind journalist Keith Murdoch's letter to the leaders of Australia and Great Britain in 1915 that exposed the realities of the Gallipoli campaign.
- 9.30** QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, finding out what Sara Pascoe, Jack Whitehall, David Mitchell and Alan Davies know about such topics as knees and knockers. (R)
- 10.15** FILM: Up in the Air (2009). A corporate downsizing expert finds his emotionally detached lifestyle under threat from an executive with revolutionary ideas. Comedy drama, with George Clooney and Vera Farmiga.
- 12.00** Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day eight.
- 12.50** Snooker: World Championship Extra. Extended highlights of a match from the second round.
- 2.50** Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow. (R)
- 3.50** Sign Zone: The Truth About Fat. (R)
- 4.50** This Is BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Canimals 7.15 Sooty 7.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.35 Hulk and the Agents of Smash 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go
- 8.25** ITV News.
- 8.30** Weekend. With guests Charlie Brooks, Lulu and Markus Feehily.
- 9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
- 10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
- 12.25** ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.35** Doc Martin. Louisa reluctantly agrees to move into Martin's house. (R)
- 2.35** FILM: HouseSitter (1992). An architect is driven to distraction when a waitress decides to move into his house and tell everyone she is his wife. Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn.
- 4.35** Tipping Point. Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 5.35** ITV News Central; Weather.
- 5.45** ITV News and Weather.
- 6.00** New You've Been Framed! Yearbook. Harry Hill looks at a typical year in the life of a You've Been Framed! star, taking in all the major events in the calendar, from Pancake Day disasters to chaotic Christmases.
- 7.00** Ninja Warrior UK. Obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
- 8.00** Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – hope to uncover more of the nation's talent.
- 9.15** Play to the Whistle. Captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Harry Redknapp, Alex Brooker and Piers Morgan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show.
- 10.00** ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 10.15** FILM: Inside Man (2006). A negotiator deals with a hostage crisis at a bank, but a political fixer is sent to make sure secrets in the vault stay hidden. Spike Lee's thriller, with Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster, Christopher Plummer and Willem Dafoe.
- 12.35** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R)
- 3.40** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.15** How I Met Your Mother. Barney and Robin try to stop Ted getting back together with Zoey.
- 6.40** How I Met Your Mother. First-ever episode of the sitcom, starring Josh Radnor. (R)
- 7.05** FIM Superbike World Championship.
- 7.30** The Grid. Including an interview with NASCAR driver Tony Stewart.
- 8.00** The Morning Line. Nick Luck presents a look ahead to this afternoon's racing at Sandown Park.
- 9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert and Amy annoy Ray and Debra. (R)
- 9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
- 10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
- 10.30** Frasier. (R)
- 11.00** Frasier. (R)
- 11.30** The Big Bang Theory. The friends try to solve the mystery of Sheldon's post-lunch activities. (R)
- 12.00** The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon and Howard squabble over ownership of a university parking space. (R)
- 12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Skye struggles to control her new abilities. (R)
- 1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Ripon.
- 4.15** Come Dine with Me. Dinner-party challenge from Taunton, Somerset. (R)
- 5.10** The Simpsons. Marge becomes a church volunteer. (R)
- 5.45** The Simpsons. Homer makes a bitter enemy. (R)
- 6.10** The Simpsons. Bart decides to steal a kiss from his crush at school after taking advice from Grampa, but the plan backfires.
- 6.35** Channel 4 News.
- 7.00** For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead restore more classic motors. (R)
- 8.00** The World's Most Extreme. From Siberia to India, the Andes to the Arctic, this programme looks at the world's 10 most extreme roads. Dashboard-mounted cameras capture mayhem in Russia, while in the US, helicopters bomb snowy mountainsides to launch huge avalanches that will help to keep the roads open and safe. In the Australian Outback - where kangaroos can pose more risk than other motorists - truck drivers face all kinds of dangers to deliver their cargo. Previously seen on More4.
- 9.00** FILM: Paul (2011). A captive alien escapes from a secret military base and seeks the help of two English comic-book geeks in getting to his spaceship. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.
- 11.05** FILM: Role Models (2008). After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.
- 1.05** The Last Leg. (R)
- 2.00** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R)
- 2.55** Hollyoaks. (R)
- 3.00** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)
- 4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas 6.15 Milkshake! Bob Box 6.20 Angelina Ballerina 6.35 Pig Ahoy! 6.45 The Mr Men Show 7.00 Chloe's Closet 7.10 Milkshake! Monkey 7.15 Roobarb and Custard Too 7.20 Make Way for Noddy 7.35 Paw Patrol 7.45 Little Princess 8.00 Wanda and the Alien 8.15 Zack and Quack 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.45 Jelly Jamm 9.00 LazyTown 9.30 Dora and Friends
- 10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
- 10.35** Access.
- 10.45** Ice Road Truckers. Darrell is sent out to clear a jack-knifed lorry off the road. (R)
- 11.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R)
- 12.35** Ice Road Truckers. VP and Polar battle it out for the load-count title. (R)
- 1.35** Ice Road Truckers. Rick discovers his truck is infested with deer mice. (R)
- 2.30** Police Interceptors. Dan is given the runaround by an uninsured driver. Last in the series. (R)
- 3.30** FILM: Columbo: An Exercise in Fatality (1974). Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Conrad.
- 5.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A dispute with a neighbour descends into violence, while an elderly couple who feel they are the victims of noise from next door receive a visit from the police. (R)
- 6.25** Britain's Horror Homes. A woman from the Norfolk village of Happisburgh whose house had to be demolished after coastal erosion left it suspended in mid-air on the edge of a cliff. (R)
- 7.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Paul and Steve make an extraordinary discovery inside a bedroom, and immediately call for police back-up. Brian and Graham head to Swindon Town football club to recover a debt. (R)
- 8.15** 5 News Weekend.
- 8.20** NCIS. Against his better judgement, Gibbs comes out of retirement to help Fornell and his daughter by reopening the case of an escaped convict who is putting their lives in danger. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R)
- 9.10** NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood, and the team discovers she had been profiling men to find the perfect partner. Meanwhile, Jenny makes Tony a secret offer. (R)
- 10.10** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A body is found at a convention dedicated to serial killer memorabilia.
- 11.05** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Tutuola link an artist's death to a similar murder – but another detective is assigned to the case and does all he can to exclude them from the investigation. (R)
- 12.00** SuperCasino.
- 3.10** Psychopath: The Devil's Disciple. (R)
- 4.00** Family Secrets & Lies. (R)
- 4.50** Make It Big. (R)
- 5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R)
- 5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R)
- 5.30** Angels of Jarm. (R)
- 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)
- 5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

**Antiques Roadshow**

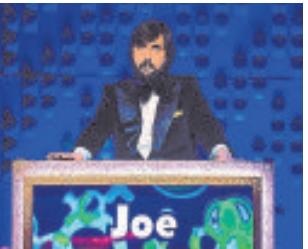
8pm

Fiona Bruce and the team pay a second visit to Lowther Castle in Cumbria, where items include an army of Action Man figures, a 'skeletonised' pendulum wall clock from the 1870s, a working child-sized car from the 1930s and a ring containing a gem that may or may not be worth a small fortune.

**Live Snooker: The World Championship**

7pm

Coverage of the evening's play on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the second sessions of two matches in the second round. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with the commentary including Ken Doherty, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry.

**Celebrity Squares**

7.15pm

Shooting Stars duo Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, footballer Rachel Yankey, comedian and actor Marek Larwood, Loose Women panellist Sherrie Hewson, writer and actress Jessica Hynes, funnymen Chris Ramsey and King of the Jungle 2014 Carl Fogarty join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid.

**Three in a Bed**

7pm

Tax accountant Vincent Frostick hosts the first visit in another three-part contest, inviting two other hotelier couples to stay at the three-star Don Guesthouse. Jayne Little and Michael Haymes round off the competition by bringing their rivals to the eco-friendly Blackburn Lodge on the Scottish Borders.

**The Hotel Inspector**

10.50am

Alex Polizzi visits the Bellingham, a 33-bedroom Victorian hotel in Wigan, Greater Manchester. Manager Richard Philips was put in charge by his father Steve, but a disastrous attempt at relaunching its restaurant as a Wild West-themed grill suggests he is badly out of his depth.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium and Burnley v Leicester City at Turf Moor. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 Athletics: London Marathon.** Gabby Logan presents further live coverage of the 35th staging of the annual event, featuring the men's, women's and wheelchair races.
- 2.30 Sunday Politics.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
- 3.45 Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
- 4.00 The Truth About Your Medicine Cabinet.** Chris van Tulleken reveals how over-the-counter medicines work, whether home remedies can be as effective and what causes common afflictions in the first place. Last in the series. (R)
- 5.00 Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year.** Aled Jones presents the Junior semi-final.
- 5.45 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong invites TV stars Vanessa Feltz, Penny Smith, Kriss Akabusi, Roger Black, Keith Chegwin, Andrew Castle, Louie Spence and Carol McGiffin to compete. (R)
- 6.35 BBC News.**
- 6.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 7.00 Countryfile.** From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Pennine Way and preventing hayfever. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team return to Lowther Castle in Cumbria, where items include an army of Action Man figures, a child-sized car from the 1930s and Beatrix Potter watercolours.
- 9.00 Poldark.** Ross is forced to close the company, so George celebrates by buying a new ship – but his enemy soon gets revenge. Demelza returns when disease hits Trenwith. Last in the series.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Everton v Manchester United at Goodison Park.
- 11.35 FILM: Snake Eyes (1998).** A corrupt cop seals all the exits in a casino as he searches for the assassin of a US government official among a crowd of 14,000. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage. (R)
- 1.10 FILM: It's a Boy Girl Thing (2006).** A supernatural accident causes a bookish high-school girl and a popular quarterback to end up in each other's bodies. Romantic comedy, starring Samaria Armstrong and Kevin Zegers. Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 2.35 BBC News.**
- 2.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.10 The Football League Show.** Highlights of the latest games in the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)
- 7.30 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don demonstrates how to lift and divide perennials. (R)
- 8.00 The Beechgrove Garden.** Jim McColl plants "heirloom vegetables".
- 8.30 Athletics: London Marathon.** Live coverage of the 35th staging of the annual event.
- 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The opening session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield; Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
- 1.00 Triathlon.** The fourth round of the ITU World Triathlon Series in Cape Town.
- 2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
- 6.00 Athletics: London Marathon – Highlights.** Helen Skelton introduces action from one of the world's most prestigious road races, as elite athletes and fun-runners negotiated the 26.2-mile course.
- 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the evening's play on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the second sessions of two matches in the second round.
- 8.10 Coast Australia.** The team heads to the northern tip of Queensland to explore the Torres Strait Islands, with Tim Flannery visiting the spot where James Cook claimed Australia for Great Britain.
- 9.00 Hunters of the South Seas.** Will Millard heads to the Indonesian village of Lamalera, where the locals have survived for centuries by hunting manta rays, dolphins, sharks and whales.
- 10.00 Britain's Biggest Diamond Heist? The Inside Story.** Declan Law takes a journey into Britain's criminal underworld in search of the secrets behind the raid carried out over the Easter weekend in London's Hatton Garden.
- 10.30 W1A.** The return of the spoof documentary. The team prepares for a visit by Prince Charles, and Siobhan is tasked with updating the BBC's Wimbledon coverage. (R)
- 11.30 Snooker: The World Championship.** Highlights of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the second round continued with two more matches.
- 12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra.** Extended highlights of a match from the second round.
- 2.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
- 3.15 Sign Zone: Holy City.** Fletch is horrified when Eve's first day at her new school leads to disaster. (R)
- 4.15 Sign Zone: The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives.** (R)
- 5.15 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Canimals **7.15** Sooty **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge ITV News.
- 8.30 Weekend.** With Rebecca Ferguson and James Dreyfus.
- 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.30 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.35 Tipping Point.** Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 1.35 All Star Family Fortunes.** With Coronation Street stars Charlie Condou and Paula Lane. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.40 Britain's Got Talent.** More hopefuls aim to impress at the auditions. (R)
- 3.55 Doc Martin.** Aunt Joan keeps quiet about a rare bird nesting on her land to deter egg thieves, but Martin lets out the news, prompting an influx of tourists. Comedy, starring Martin Clunes. (R)
- 5.55 Ninja Warrior UK.** The third heat of the obstacle-course challenge. (R)
- 6.50 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 7.00 ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.15 Celebrity Squares.** Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Rachel Yankey, Marek Larwood, Sherrie Hewson, Jessica Hynes, Chris Ramsey and Carl Fogarty join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid.
- 8.00 Vera.** When a dock worker plunges from a multi-storey car park, Vera investigates a work dispute over a young man's death and uncovers a life of secrets and lies. Last in the series.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.15 Perspectives: Len Goodman – For the Love of Fred Astaire.** The Strictly Come Dancing judge travels across America exploring the extraordinary life of his hero, finding out how and why Astaire became one of the world's greatest movers.
- 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Northampton Saints v Saracens, Bath v London Irish and Wasps v Exeter Chiefs.
- 12.15 The Store.** Home shopping.
- 2.30 Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Brands Hatch, featuring the Ginetta GT4 Supercup and MSA Formula Championship. With commentary by Richard John Neil.
- 3.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from the Brands Hatch Indy circuit, where the second meeting of the season was scheduled to take place, featuring the third and fourth races of the campaign.
- 4.20 ITV Nightscreen.**
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** Ted throws a party. (R)
- 6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray and Debra begin telling lies. (R)
- 7.05 Volkswagen Racing Cup.** Action from the opening round of the series at Oulton Park.
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Katherine Helmond guest stars. (R)
- 8.00 Frasier.** Unemployment takes its toll on Frasier. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** A school reunion fills Frasier with misgivings. (R)
- 9.00 Sunday Brunch.** With Alexandra Burke, Stefanie Powers, Suggs, Shaun Escoffery and Echosmith.
- 12.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A beach-themed holiday retreat in a back garden. (R)
- 1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Amy tries to find Raj a date. (R)
- 1.25 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon visits his mother in Houston. (R)
- 1.50 The Simpsons.** Bart runs away from home. (R)
- 2.20 The Simpsons.** Bart becomes a daredevil skateboarder. (R)
- 2.50 Location, Location, Location.** House-hunting in Norfolk. (R)
- 3.50 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** A couple decide between the Midlands and Spain.
- 4.50 FILM: ParaNorman (2012).** Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Kodi Smit-McPhee.
- 6.35 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Three in a Bed.** The owners of the Don Guesthouse in Snowdonia, Blackpool's Graydon Hotel and Blackburn Lodge on the Scottish Borders take part in another round of the B&B contest.
- 8.00 For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister fulfills a dream to drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars, as he and Ant Anstead restore a Rover SD1 and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit.
- 9.00 FILM: The Impossible (2012).** Premiere. A family spending Christmas in Thailand are separated in the 2004 tsunami and struggle to find each other in the ensuing chaos. Drama, with Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor.
- 11.15 FILM: Whiteout (2009).** A US marshal stationed in Antarctica investigates a murder, uncovering the dark secret behind a plane crash 50 years earlier. Thriller, starring Kate Beckinsale and Gabriel Macht.
- 1.05 FILM: Kali Salwaar (2002).** Premiere. Drama, starring Sadiya Siddiqui.
- 3.05 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)
- 3.15 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 3.40 Come Dine with Me.** Claire Crank hosts the second party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
- 4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 4.35 Come Dine with Me.** Beauty parlour owner Michelle Minter hosts the penultimate dinner party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
- 5.05 Come Dine with Me.** Matt Wilcox hosts the final dinner party in Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
- 5.30 Jamie's Money Saving Meals.** Budget recipes for pot-roasted ham hocks, and squash and spinach rotolo. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.35** Pip Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **7.00** Chloe's Closet **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.20** Make Way for Noddy **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.45**
- 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** April tries to resume a normal life. (R)
- 10.35 Chinese Food in Minutes.** Recipes for fried sweet chilli chicken and spicy Sichuan aubergine. (R)
- 10.50 The Hotel Inspector.** Alex Polizzi helps an inexperienced hotelier in Wigan. (R)
- 11.50 The Hotel Inspector.** An Eastbourne establishment aiming for a four-star rating. (R)
- 12.50 The Hotel Inspector.** Alex Polizzi helps with the launch a new venture in Ramsgate, Kent. (R)
- 1.50 FILM: James and the Giant Peach (1996).** Children's fantasy, with Paul Terry.
- 3.20 FILM: Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1996).** Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart.
- 5.10 5 News Weekend.**
- 5.15 FILM: Labyrinth (1986).** Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie.
- 7.15 FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995).** The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle.
- 9.00 FILM: The Last Stand (2013).** Premiere. The sheriff of a small town on the Mexican border tries to stop a drug lord from fleeing the country. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Johnny Knoxville.
- 11.30 FILM: Navy Seals (1990).** The US Navy's elite commando force embarks on a covert mission to recover stolen missiles from terrorists in Beirut. Action adventure, starring Charlie Sheen and Michael Biehn.
- 1.45 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **3.10 The Gadget Show.** The Harleum Globetrotters test a range of Bluetooth in-ear headphones. (R)
- 4.00 House Doctor.** Revamping a detached house in Sandhurst, Berkshire. (R)
- 4.25 Make It Big.** Alanna searches for a celebrity guest. (R)
- 4.50 Make It Big.** Keiron hits a snag while confirming the acts. (R)
- 5.15 Angels of Jarm.** Otto forgets to feed the class guinea pigs. (R)
- 5.20 Angels of Jarm.** Ellie sets out to help a boy who thinks he is no good at anything. (R)
- 5.30 Angels of Jarm.** Angel Rafe shows the children how to get along. (R)
- 5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)
- 5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

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Slicker Vitara will challenge

By Anthony Martyn

It's good to see the Vitara badge being rehabilitated after the indignities it suffered at the hands of fashion in the early nineties. You'll probably shudder as you recall those widewheeled horrors, usually so mercilessly colour-keyed in white that it looked as if they'd emerged from a peroxide bath.

The windsurfing or rollerblading rhino on the spare wheel cover and the booming stereo from within were all rather 'of their time'. The easy thing to have done after suffering these ministrations would have been to quietly drop the Vitara name and think up a new badge for their next generation of compact crossovers but Suzuki stuck with it, probably to their cost, in this country at least. As the market grew more sophisticated, Suzuki was left behind.

The thing is, the Grand Vitaras it subsequently built were actually pretty good. Sure, they were short of a bit of polish, but they were tough, reliable and practical. Then came the Nissan Qashqai. It hogged that particular section of the market and the Grand Vitara was doomed. Suzuki's back in the crossover segment with a smaller and slicker offering. The Vitara is back.

The mechanics aren't anything too surprising, shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a much preferable Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in

front or four-wheel drive guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard with an optional CVT transmission also offered. Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but the 185mm ground clearance isn't generous.

The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive transmission features an electronically controlled clutch pack, controlled by a four-position switch on the centre console. Choose 'Auto' and it'll drive the front wheels unless slip is detected, whereupon the rear wheels are pressed into action. 'Sport' diverts up to 20 per cent of torque to the rear wheels to give livelier handling. 'Snow' offers permanent four-wheel drive with the system choosing how much torque to split front and rear, while 'Lock' splits torque equally between front and rear.

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design, the Vitara is an assured piece of design. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat taillamp finish.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't new one (many of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims, plus an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a 375-litre boot.

Prices start at around £14,000 for the entry-level 1.6-litre petrol, but you'll need



'Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit.'

a £20,000 budget for the petrol ALLGRIP 4WD version. 1.6 DDIS diesel model pricing starts at around £17,000. All variants get seven airbags, 16-inch alloy wheels, a DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with a speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

The Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight saving measures in the body plus an Engine Auto Stop Start system which shuts down the engine when sta-

tionary. The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two wheel drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive / six-speed automatic transmission. Four-wheel drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions performance. By contrast, Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV, with figures of 130g/km with five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with six-speed automatic transmission.

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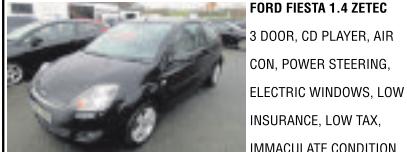


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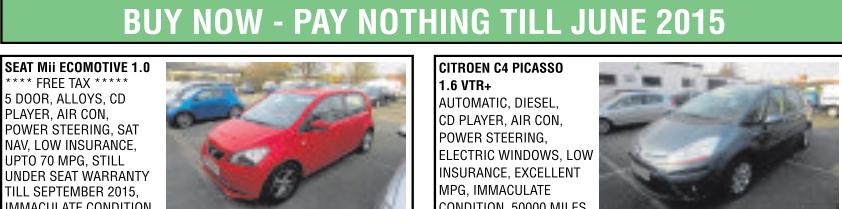


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How they stand

Sky Bet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burton Albion	44	26	8	10	66	29	88
Shrewsbury Town	44	26	8	10	66	29	88
Wycombe Wds	44	22	5	7	64	42	81
Southend Utd.	44	23	12	9	52	35	81
Bury	44	24	13	7	57	40	79
Stoke	44	19	12	13	52	45	72
Plymouth Argyle	44	18	11	15	50	55	78
Luton Town	44	18	11	5	52	43	65
Newport County	44	17	11	16	49	53	65
Northampton Town	44	16	13	13	58	62	61
Exeter City	44	16	13	13	58	62	61
Morecambe	44	15	12	17	49	51	61
AFC Wimbledon	44	15	12	14	53	57	61
Deptford & R.W.	44	16	12	14	53	57	61
Stone Heath	44	16	12	12	55	58	61
Hightown MV	44	18	0	12	58	58	58
Portsmouth	44	13	14	17	49	52	53
Accrington S.C.	44	14	11	19	56	72	52
Cambridge Utd.	44	13	12	13	59	61	51
York City	44	11	18	5	45	48	26
Carlisle Utd.	44	14	7	23	53	50	49
Mansfield Town	44	13	9	22	36	50	41
Hartlepool Utd.	44	12	9	25	34	66	41
Cheltenham Town	44	9	12	22	39	65	39
Tranmere Rovers	44	12	9	23	43	63	39

Evo-Stik League

Division One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mickleover Spots	31	31	4	6	104	39	97
Leek Town	40	26	8	10	96	50	81
Newcastle Town	44	26	8	9	68	49	78
Gresley	44	25	6	10	96	50	81
Sutton C'field	44	12	8	9	73	40	35
Bull's Head	44	7	4	34	32	24	24
Stafford Rgs	44	21	12	7	67	33	73
Tividale	44	21	10	11	50	55	78
Lincoln Utd.	44	18	9	14	70	55	75
Cressage	44	15	0	5	21	15	15
Park FC	44	12	9	14	73	52	74
Coastville Twn	44	11	9	14	70	50	74
Romulus	44	7	17	16	65	65	61
Chasetown	44	14	9	18	60	62	51
Sheffield	44	14	5	22	73	92	51
Goole AFC	40	12	9	19	52	61	56
L'borough Dyn.	44	12	9	17	67	87	56
Stockbridge PSO	44	12	9	17	67	87	56
Callerton	44	11	9	17	52	79	38
Mid-District	44	11	9	17	52	79	38
Kidsgrave A	44	8	9	24	46	96	33
Rainbow MV	44	8	6	27	45	89	30
Brigg Twn	44	3	2	26	51	55	11

Telford Flooring

Telford Sunday League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plough Inn	12	10	1	1	53	30	31
Mallard	13	9	1	3	45	18	28
Bulls Head	14	7	3	4	32	24	24
Unicon FC	13	5	3	5	30	36	18
Shifnal NE	13	6	0	7	25	32	18
Shifnal NE	13	6	0	7	25	32	18
Belvidere	20	11	1	8	65	53	34
AFC Broseley	22	7	5	10	48	48	26
Shifnal Harriers	22	6	7	9	63	72	25
Riverside	22	6	6	10	53	64	24
St Martins Vill.	21	7	2	12	77	71	23
Whitchurch Alp	21	5	1	11	51	64	20
Albrighton Twn	19	4	1	13	56	66	16
Denso...	21	1	0	20	15	193	3

Telford

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plough Inn	12	10	1	1	53	30	31
Mallard	13	9	1	3	45	18	28
Bulls Head	14	7	3	4	32	24	24
Unicon FC	13	5	3	5	30	36	18
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Shifnal NE	13	6	0	7	25	32	18
Belvidere	20	11	1	8	65	53	34
AFC Broseley	22	7	5	10	48	48	26
Shifnal Harriers	22	6	7	9	63		

St Martins look good to secure promotion

ST MARTINS stayed firmly on the promotion trail in the West Midlands League division one after pulling off a fine 1-0 win at leaders Bromyard Town, writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

Victory sees the Saints one point off the summit with two fixtures remaining, although they have played two more games than the pacesetters.

While chances of lifting the title could prove a tall order, Ryan Butcher's side look well placed for promotion as they are five points clear in second spot.

They now have two remaining games, both away to Pennycroft on Saturday and Wrens Nest the following week, and victories in those would secure a top-two finish and likely promotion to the premier division.

Despite making the trip south with a depleted line-up, which included manager Butcher on the bench, St Martins were up for the challenge as they went close to taking the lead when Jamie Hands fired wide after a good move down the right involving Karl Bailey and Shain Melusi.

Bromyard, who relied heavily on long balls, almost got their noses in front five minutes before half time when Dorian Culling forced keeper George Austin into a fine save to tip the ball over the bar.

Early in the second half, Melusi had a goal harshly ruled out for offside while a 55th minute free kick from Shin Miah was deflected onto the bar off the head of a defender.

But the Saints made the breakthrough with five minutes remaining as Hands played in Melusi who tucked the ball into the net, before the visitors saw out the remaining minutes to claim a vital win.

High fives as Juniors hit the goal trail

RUNNERS-UP Llanymynech Juniors under-13s finished a successful Shropshire Junior League season with a 5-1 win at Wem.

Lloyd Owen opened the door with a superb 20-yard strike and, despite the home side levelling things up, Llanyr ran out convincing winners with further goals from Lloyd Edwards, Tom Williams and a brace from Luke Jones.

It was a good solid performance to finish the season that produced seven wins and three losses.

Llanyr's under-15s also ended with a victory, defeating Worthen 4-2 through a hat-trick from Byron Edwards and one from Warren Roberts.

The under-16s entertained Worthen at Foxen Manor in their last home fixture of the season and came away with a 2-2 draw with Josh Biggs (penalty) and Nathan Buckley the goalscorers while man of the match was goalkeeper Joe Conde.

The under-eights went down 8-3 at home to Up and Coming Eagles.

Gr-eight win as Guilsfield hit goal trail

GUILSFIELD reserves kept their flag flying in the Montgomeryshire League Consolation Cup with an 8-1 blitz against Maesyrhydian.

Victory was built on a fine first half display that brought six goals before two further strikes were added in the second half to rub salt into the wounds of the second division visitors.

George Minshall led the way with a hat-trick, Rhidian Morris netted a brace with Luke Francis, Phil Turnbull and Sam Griffiths also getting on the scoresheet.

Seven up sees Ladies in cup final

THE New Saints ladies eased through to the final of the West Midlands Premier League Cup with a comfortable 7-0 passage against Leamington Ladies – and now meet title rivals Birmingham and West Midlands Police.

The Saints started the brighter of the two sides at the New Windmill ground as they posed some early problems, and were in front after 10 minutes when some terrific build-up play saw Sam Berry slot into the net.

But they didn't look too convincing after that as keeper Charlotte Edmunds was called upon to make

a double save to ensure the Shropshire side stayed ahead at the break.

The Saints, however, looked a completely different side in the second half and within one minute of the re-start Emily Ridge doubled the lead after breaking through the defence to double the lead.

Ridge then netted her second of the afternoon before completing a quick fire hat-trick, her 33rd goal of the season, to put TNS in total charge.

They soon had their fifth goal when a cross from the right hand side found Kelly Dovaston who produced a neat finish into the bottom left hand corner

for her first senior goal.

Sophie Edwards then added her side's sixth goal with 13 minutes to go, and Berry completed the scoring two minutes from time with her second of the game.

The Saints now progress to the Premier League Cup final where they meet fellow high fliers Birmingham and West Midland Police at Stone Donomes FC on Sunday, May 24.

Before then, the two sides come face to face in a potential league title decider at Shrewsbury College on Sunday (2.30pm).

Treble-chasing TNS are finally beaten

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AIRBUS UK 1 The New Saints 0
THE New Saints tasted defeat for the first time this season after Airbus UK avenged their recent Welsh Cup semi-final exit with a famous win at the Hollingsworth Group Stadium.

Glenn Rule's strike through a crowded box three minutes into the second half proved enough to separate the sides, giving the Wingmakers their first ever Welsh Premier success over the all-concurring Saints.

Victory kept alive Airbus' hopes of Europa League qualification this term while it denied TNS the chance of rewriting the history books as their proud unbeaten record finally came to an end with just two games remaining.

But the Saints still have the 'consolation' of having won two trophies – and have the domestic treble firmly in their sights in next month's Welsh Cup final at Newtown.

Boss Craig Harrison said: "It was not the result we wanted, but to have our first defeat in our 43rd game of the season is an outstanding achievement by everyone at the club."

Proud

"We can be proud of everything we have done, winning the League and the Word Cup, and we've still got the Welsh Cup final to come. The run starts again next week."

Airbus sounded a warning when Ryan Wade drilled a shot inches wide. Another Field shot was deflected for a corner before TNS had their first attempt on goal, Kai Edwards sending a snap shot well wide. TNS were rarely threatening although an off-balance Aeron Edwards managed a shot which flew well wide from a cross by Chris Marriott, who then fired straight at keeper James Coates from 20 yards as the first half came to a close.

However, it was Airbus who made what proved a crucial breakthrough three minutes into the second period when Rule latched onto a loose ball before smashing his 16-yard volley through a crowd of players past Harrison.

Quigley had a couple of chances for the Saints, the striker seeing a shot punched away by keeper James Coates. TNS were in no mood to surrender their proud unbeaten record without a fight, Phil Baker heading over while Quigley almost levelled when firing just past the post.

But it wasn't the Saints' day – with five minutes remaining, Kai Edwards found himself in space inside the box but shot straight at Coates with the goal at his mercy.

Morda merrier after win double



Morda United's Emlyn Williams shields the ball from a Forden defender during the 2-1 away victory

NEWLY-CROWNED champions Morda United proved their worth with two away victories at Waterloo Rovers Colts and Forden United to underline their credentials in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two.

First they saw off Waterloo 2-0, with both goals coming in the first half with Emlyn Williams forcing an own goal then hitting the second himself as United overcame some strong early resistance from a changed home side.

Morda had gone into the clash in buoyant mood having been confirmed as league champion just two days earlier.

Waterloo, though, were keen to challenge the league's top team

with some early challenges but visiting keeper Josh Thomas commanded his goal with some crisp catches before Williams showed why he is the club's top goal scorer, robbing a home defender before going close with a cross.

It was another cross from Williams which opened the scoring when a Rovers defender sliced the ball into his own net on 17 minutes before Williams then hit the second himself when firing home after a neat turn from a Harry Davies cross.

Morda took control of the remainder of the game with Keith Meredith and substitute Liam Edwards constantly tormenting the home defence.

Four days later, Morda continued the winning ways when running out 2-1 winners at Forden United despite missing several players due to work commitments that saw them make the trip with just 11 players.

However, goals either side of half time from Williams and Aled Davies were enough to secure a tally of the points, despite a consolation goal for Forden from James Watkins.

On Wednesday Morda travelled to Llanfyllin Town in the Consolation Cup before completing their league programme on Friday away to Kerry reserves where they will be presented with the league trophies.

Llanfair on brink of title after point

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

the lead following a defensive blunder five minutes into the second period when a Matty Evans through ball bounded over the keeper.

A terrific run by the impressive Iwan Matthews who set up Endaf Owens to make it 3-0 on 57 minutes, and more good work by Matthews saw Iain Edmunds fire against the post moments later. But Edmunds was not to be denied when finding the net after being set up by Matthews who then himself got on the scoresheet himself on 78 minutes.

Player boss Marc Griffiths completed the scoring from Dan Kelly's pass, taking Llanfair to within one point of third placed CARNO who were 2-1 winners at depleted WATERLOO ROVERS.

Without several regulars, Rovers more than matched their visitors in a goalless first half before going behind to two quickfire goals after the break from Ashley Owen and Andy Evans. But they reduced the arrears through Ian MacLeod, but the reply came too late to rescue a point.

Mid-table WELSHPOOL drew 1-1 at home to fifth placed Bow Street at Maesydre after spurning a penalty, while Tywyn Bryncrug picked up a useful point in their deadlock at home to Aberaeron.

Earlier in the week, Llanfair United booked their place in the semi-final of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup with a 1-0 home win one Kerry, Dan Jones notching their only goal of the tie.

They will now renew acquaintance with title rivals Penrhyncoch who were comfortable 4-0 winners over Tywyn Bryncrug, Josh Shaw firing a hat-trick, one from the penalty spot, and Mattie Davies completing the scoring at the death. In the other semi-final, Llanrhader – who defeated Waterloo Rovers in a 5-4 thriller – will meet Bow Street, who were 3-2 winners over Montgomery.

BERRIEW are heading for relegation from the first division in the wake of their 3-0 home defeat to Rhosgoch in their last game that left them in the bottom two places.

FOUR CROSSES remain just above on goal difference after their 4-3 home defeat against Waterloo Rovers who took the spoils through Neil Pryce, a Will Pritchard penalty, Ricky Litchfield and a late Ian MacLeod header.

In division two, Presteigne edged out Penybont 2-1 with goals from Keiran Lusher and Callum Mathew, while Abermule consolidated third spot with a 4-2 home victory over already promoted Hay St Mary's. Kerry went down 1-0 at home to Borth in the other second division action.

Depleted Oswestry are beaten at leaders

DEPLETED FC Oswestry Town failed to halt Telford Juniors' title charge in the Mercian Regional League premier division as they succumbed 4-1 to the leaders at the top of the table clash.

Victory saw the Telford side crowned champions, but second placed Town still have a good chance of claiming runners-up spot – although six teams in all are still in contention.

A brace from Alex Wong with goals from Tom White and Duane Upton secured the spoils for Telford Juniors, with Calum Williams responding from the penalty spot for the Oswestry-based side.

Town travelled to the champions elect with a weakened squad and paid the price as the home side took an early lead when the wind carried a cross in to the top corner, leaving Town keeper no chance.

But the visitors hit back when Al Morris won a penalty which was slotted home by Calum Williams.

The scores were level at the break with Town controlling the first half and the visitors still held the upper hand after the interval until the last 20 minutes when the home side took advantage of some tiring players to score three unanswered goals to secure the league title.

Nick Maguire's men look to bounce back next week away at Prees on Saturday (3pm) as they look to maintain their pursuit of runners up spot.

In division two, ST MARTINS VILLAGE hit the goal trail as they ran out 15-0 victors against whipping boys Denso.

Shropshire Cricket games at weekend

Saturday

Premier division: Broseley v Frankton, Wem v Newport, Ross & Shropshire Services v Madeley, Ludlow & South Shropshire v Boscote Heath, Cond w St Georges, Quatt v Wroxeter.

Division one: Albrighton v Forton, Newtown v Market Drayton, Shetton v Pontesbury, Alberbury v Knockin & Kinnerley, Allscott v Beacon.

Division two: Condover v Prees Valley v Cae Glaston, Much Wenlock v Shifnal, Ellesmere v Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle v Montgomery.

Division three: Wheaton Aston v Corve Dale, Wroxeter Grove III v Shifnal III, Harper's Calverhall, Chelmarsh v Linlithgow, Ludlow & South Shropshire v Church Aston.

Division four: Condover II v Quatt II, Hinstock v Coton Hall, Asterton Redhill v Whittington, Gisfield v Hodnet & Peplow, Overton-on-Dee v Wem II, Franklin II v Wellington IV.

Reserve division two: Welshpool II v Llinsell II, Pontesbury II v Condover CC II, Cae Glass II v Wiley II, Pontesbury II v Shetton II, Knockin & Kinnerley II v Alberbury II, Wroxeter Grove II v Allscott II.

Reserve division three: Tibberton II v Broseley II, Shifnal IV v Wroxeter Grove IV, Market Drayton II v Newton, Shropshire Services II, Fenns Bank II v Oswestry II, St Georges II v Ellesmere II, Montgomeryshire II v Much Wenlock II.

Sunday

Division three: Oswestry II vs Iscud & Fens Bank.

Division four A: Alberbury II v Newport III, Boscote Heath II v Wellington II, Wem III v Knockin & Kinnerley III, Cond w St Georges III v Worfield III, Shifnal III v Much Wenlock III, Fenns Bank II v Oswestry II, St Georges II v Ellesmere II, Montgomeryshire II v Much Wenlock II.

SUE SHEMILT won the Seniors Charity Cup with 38 points at Welshpool Golf Club.

She mastered difficult conditions on The Golfa course to narrowly beat Phil Jones on the back nine countback. In third place was John Painter with 37.

The day raised £183 for the captain's charity which is the Wales Air Ambulance.

Last Thursday, the seniors were triumphant in their inaugural match against Lakeside, beating the visitors 5½-1. The return match will be held at Lakeside on June 11.

Last weekend saw two qualifiers for upcoming knockout competitions. On Saturday there was a huge turnout of 94 members for the Terry Edwards Qualifier, a four ball baseball medal, and Sunday saw the Robin Amison Qualifier, which is a

Sue success at Welshpool

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Latest golf returns from your local club

HENLINE PARK

April Medal Division 1: G Simmonds net 73 (CB); M Hatton nett 73; Fort nett 75; Division 2: M Welch nett 77; R Hall net 77; S Bryers nett 79.

9 Hole Stableford: D S Jones 22pts; J Humphreys 19pts (CB); Evans 19pts.

9 Hole - Club match against Clays which was a draw:

Individual Stableford: A Hardy 35pts; R Collins 34pts; P Coombes 32pts.

Kellogg's Trophy Division 1: B Evans 40pts; D McCoughy 40pts; D S Jones 39pts; Division 2: M Lloyd 41pts; K Lloyd-Jones 37pts; L Jones 35pts.

Good Friday Texas Scramble: P Clark, M Brown, C Hughes & Tom Evans nett 57.6; P Grimley, M Williams, M Evans & N Flack nett 57.6; G Edwards, G Brown M Evans & J Coates nett 56.6.

Ladies - Henline Park Ladies played their first match of the season against Upton by Chester and drew 2-2.

MILE END

Des Pugh Trophy: D Smith 44pts; D Griffiths 42pts; J Barry 49pts.

Nearest The Pin: S Hayman 4pt 9".

Bank Holiday Social: J Bennett & J Sharpe 47pts; S Howell & D Smith 46pts; B Dando & Evans 45pts.

Mens Foursomes: B Sharpe & P Dring 87-18.68.5; P O'Connor & R Roberts 82-13.69.0; K Jones & I Horler 90-19.70.

Sunday Social: M Holmes, P Austin, T Cartwright 65pts; S Morris, S Russell, R Meyer 65pts; A Bailey, J Harper, J Jones 63pts.

OSWESTRY

Mixed Foursomes - 1: Guy Wilson & Sandy Wilson 57, 2: Stephen Jones & Kath Jones 58, 3: Robert & Mary Hughes 58, 4: Bob & Gina Hatt 59, 5: Ian & Celia Pearce 60, 6: John Hewett & Eric Moss 61, 7: Darryl Hopton & Pauline Davies 61.

Wem Cup - 1: Jason Harris 77-12.65, 2: Simon Probert 74-7-67, 3: Andrew Humphreys 77-9-68, 4: Oliver Wheeler 77-8-69, 5: Andy Allen 76-7-69, 6: Matthew Knapper 74-5-69.

Eastern Stableford - Men - 1: Oliver Wheeler & Frank Mottram 44 pts; 2: Ian Pearce & D John Evans 44, 3: Jim String & Steve Jones 44.

Ladies - 1: Margaret Dunbar & Sheila MacKenzie 30.

Mixed - 1: Peter Turner & Janet Turner 43.

Ladies Club Championship qualifiers (bedlam cross over west): Pearce 79, V Bradbeer 80 (c/b), V Raffie 80, G Thomas 83, M Ratcliffe 90, M Brodgen 94 (c/b), D Hall 94, J Thornell 95.

EG Medal - 18 holes Silver Div: M Ratcliffe 90-16-74 c/b, V Raffie 80-6-74, Bronze Div: M Brodgen 94-21-73 c/b, R Morris 113-25-73; Upper Bronze Div: C Bradley 99-32-67, R Roberts 103-33-70.

Cricket side warm up with win over Wem

WITH the new league season now just days away, Oswestry's cricketers completed their pre-season warm-up matches with a comfortable home win against Wem.

The visitors elected to bat first but an impressive spell by Dan Bowen (3-26) soon had them on the ropes.

Adam Lloyd came out towards the end of the innings and returned the remarkable figures of 3-0 as Wem were dismissed for 88.

Oswestry lost two early wickets in reply, but Robbie Clarke (38) and Alex Huxley (27) saw them to a four-wicket success.

The game continued after the total had been reached to allow both sides more practice, and the highlight of the extra period was a stand of 70 between skipper Mark Robinson (40) and 14-year-old Xavier Clarke (29 not out).

■ Oswestry are looking in good shape for the new season in the Birmingham League division one with Saturday's opening game against Walsall at Morda Road starting at 12 noon with entry to the ground free.

International coaching tips for COBRA

FORMER Welsh hooker Robin McBryde was special guest at the Caer COBRA ground on Sunday afternoon when he led a coaching session in the medium of Welsh.

As part of the lead-up to the National Eisteddfod, McBryde, now Welsh national forwards coach, took the session which involved the under-13, 14, 15 and 16 teams from COBRA.

Sponsored by mentor Iaith Maldwyn, an organisation that promotes the Welsh language in Montgomeryshire through, a variety of activities and events, the session was undertaken in the Welsh language. Hooker McBryde was capped 37 times for Wales.

Criftins top after fine away win

CRIFTINS A are the early leaders of the Oswestry and District Bowling League Division one after maintaining their fine start with a stunning 10-0 away win at Cyngwyd A.

Dave Edwards led the way with a 21-12 card in the 40 (168-128) shots victory that took his side three points clear at the top. Tom Griffiths and Gary Wilkie both won to 14. By contrast, WHITTINGTON TON A's slow start continued as they went down 6-4 (142-131) at home to Corwen A.

After losing their opening encounter at Church A the week before, the villagers toiled in their first outing on home soil with their best wins coming from Mel Morris and Mike Brunt to 12 and 14 respectively.

CHURCH A are still unbeaten after securing a

creditable 5-5 draw at Overton A, but it could have been even better after the visitors were edged out by six shots (147-141) to deny them the outright win.

Phil Laker, a new recruit from George, and Steve Lewis both won to 13. Jamie Waugh, another new arrival from Yr Olde Crofte, notched his second win of the campaign to 18.

Defending champions Johnstown A were 7-3 victors at Chirk A, taking the aggregate by 10 (139-129) to consolidate joint second spot.

Elsewhere, Ruabon A were 6-4 (153-139) home victors against Ceirrog Valley A, while newcomers Llangollen A notched a 6-4 verdict at Flexsys A, taking the aggregate by 10 (149-139).

CHURCH B sounded a warning in division two

after sweeping aside visiting LLANRHAEDR A 9-1 (164-112).

Graham Mansfield (21-7) bagged the coppers, with Merv Weaver (21-9) and Emrys Jones (21-10) also weighing in, with Steve Jones (21-17) claiming a consolation for the visitors.

LLANYMYNECH A suffered their first loss after being downed 8-2 (143-116) at YE OLDE CROFTE A who moved up to second.

Next Tuesday's fixtures - Div one: Llangollen A v Cyngwyd A, Church A v Criftins A, Conven A v Chirk A, Ruabon A v Flexsys A, Johnstown A v Overton A, Ceirrog Valley A v Whittington A, Div two: George v Llangynog A, Llanrhedr A v Yr Olde Crofte A, Criftins B v Johnstown B, LLANYMYNECH A v Ellesmere B, Ellesmere A v Church B, Wed: Criftins C v Weston Rhyn A.

Lion fail to roar in big defeat on their travels

BLACK LION, relegated to division three of the Oswestry and District Bowls League, made a disappointing start to the new season as they found themselves well beaten 9-1 at Whittington B.

Eileen Sinker (21-3) was the best of three single figure winners for Whittington who prevailed by 68 (157-89) shots, with Peter Williams 21-4 victor and Brian Charles coming through to eight. Chris Lloyd bagged a consolation for Lion by winning to 10.

It was also a good night for Whittington E who secured a 7-3 (156-128) success away to WESTON RHYN C, Bryn Jones leading the charge to nine while Eric Gale was the pick of the replies to 13.

Peter Adams and Cheryl Weaver (both 21-10) shone as CHURCH C opened their account in division four with a 9-1 (159-105) beating of visiting Llangollen B. FOX LANE are up and running with an 8-2 (149-103) home win over Ceirrog Valley C, Ben Parkes and Peter Williams winning to four.

LLANYMYNECH B succumbed 6-4 at Plas Kynaston B in the same division, losing the aggregate by 15, with Eaton Williams the best of the replies.

In division six, newcomers IFTON sounded an early warning with a 9-1 (157-105) romp at Whittington D, Geraint Williams taking the coppers to six.

■ CHURCH B suffered an 8-2 (160-127) reverse at their CRIFTINS counterparts in their season opener in division two, their two replies going from William Lewis (21-16) and Merv Weaver to 18. The home side had three winners to 11 - Lenny Jones, James Gillam and Tony Johnson.

Results

Division one: Criftins B 8 (160) Church B 2 (127).

Division three: Chirk B 7 (161) Royston A 3 (135) Weston Rhyn C 3 (128) Whittington E 7 (156), Whittington B 9 (157) Black Lion 1 (89), Bersham 6 (135) Ruabon B 4 (135-131), Ceirrog Valley B 8 (143) Johnstown D 2 (134), Johnstown C 5 (134) Plas Kynaston A 5 (135).

Division four: Church C 9 (159) Llangollen B 1 (105), Flexsys B 4 (111) Johnstown B 6 (130), Fox Lane 8 (149) Ceirrog Valley C 2 (103), Overton B 7 (136) Llangynog C 3 (123), Plas Kynaston B 6 (145) LLANYMYNECH B 4 (130).

Division five: Chirk C (128) 4 Overton (132), Church D 7 (155) Whittington C 3 (155-123), Llanrhedr D 8 (159) Yr Olde Crofte B 2 (111), Royston B 3 (133) Llanrhedr B 7 (133-147), Weston Rhyn B 7 (149) Cyndywyd B 3 (120).

Division six: Criftins D 9 (147) Church E 1 (78) Cyngwyd C 9 (159) Llanfyllin B 1 (106), Llangynog B 10 (168) Llanrhedr E 0 (95), LLANYMYNECH C 7 (148) Weston Rhyn D 3 (135), Whittington D 1 (105) Ifton 9 (157).

A fine start on greens for Ifton bowlers

IFTON maintained their steady start to the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League season as they moved up to sixth in the table, just one point off second spot, with a 9-5 home success over battling Bylet.

Geraint Williams led the way with the night's best result, defeating Nick Pownier 21-6 to take the most valuable player honour as the St Martins side secured a 33-shots (232-199) success.

Keiron Roberts was not far behind in winning to seven, while Brian Hayes was a 21-13 victor and Darren Lacey prevailed 21-15.

Megis Phillips defeated Rich Taylor 21-17, and Ian Metcalfe and Nicky Jones both won to 18 to complete the winners list.

Giles Evans suffered his first defeat of the season when going down 21-16 to Russell Morris, while Dicky Jones was edged out 21-20.

Ifton look to continue their solid start when they visit Bowning - who lost 10-4 at Castlefields last week - on Friday night.

Oswestry take wing to defeat Manxmen

RUGBY UNION by John Bridgwater

COBRA suffer big defeat on coast



COBRA back row Rhodri Evans ties up the loose ball with scrum half Andrew Price behind and (below) second row Bryn Edwards looks to shake off the close attentions of a Pwllheli tackler with (from left): prop Ashley Padgett, hooker Stephen Isaac and Rhodri Evans



COBRA had a day to forget after suffering a crushing 76-3 defeat at high-flying Pwllheli to dampen their spirits in the Swalec Welsh Rugby League division one (north).

Having guaranteed safety a few weeks back, the Meifod side made the testing trip with a severely depleted side – and it showed as the Seasiders ran riot in the sunshine to stay on course for the title.

"It was a fantastic finish to a magnificent game," said first team manager Martin Ord.

Lelew Williams kicked a first

However, they will be looking

to finish the season on a positive note with a stronger side at their disposal when they host another of the title-chasers, Nant Conwy, in their last game – with the date to be confirmed.

WELSHPOOL who had no action in division three (north) last week, are due to return to duty at home to Porthmadog on Saturday before completing the season against struggling visitors Holyhead the following week.

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Sport

Oswestry Sports Desk 01743 283301

Parry hopes for second celebration

BOSS Mike Parry is ready to clock up the miles as his Guisfield side bid to put the seal on a tremendous campaign by lifting the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance Cup on Saturday.

Having finished third in the Alliance, their highest league position, the Guils would dearly like to cap it off by landing the league cup against Mid Wales rivals Caerws in the final at Porthmadog (2.30pm).

They last lifted the silverware in 2011 and Parry hits the road this weekend as his side aim to emulate that success of four years ago.

"I'm away near Skipton in Yorkshire for a family party, so I'll be making a 350-mile round trip to the final and back," he said.

"It's a long way, but hopefully we can win the trophy which will make the journey a lot easier. It could be a long way back if we don't!"

"If we can come away with a trophy on top of a third-place finish in a tough league, then it would be a good return for the season."

"Caerws can be a bit hit and miss, but they are dangerous up front. But we are always a threat going forward ourselves, so it should be a good game."

The Guils have plenty of options, with front runner Rhydian Morris now back after working abroad.

Caerws, three-times winners of the Welsh Premier Cup, have yet to collect the league cup despite reaching the final twice. Player-boss Graham Evans feels his players can get the job done despite finishing only eighth in the league.

The Bluebirds have saved some of their best form for cup competitions this term, having reached the quarter-finals of the Welsh Cup and booked their place in the Central Wales Cup final.

"We haven't been as consistent as we would have liked in the league, but we deserve something this season," said Evans. "On our day we are capable of beating anyone in the league."

Jake Parr and Graham Jones are back in contention after missing last week.

Llanfair looking to wrap up cup double

HOLDERS Llanfair United secured their place in the final of the Central Wales Cup after seeing off Rhayader Town 2-0 at Caerws.

The Spar Mid Wales League leaders carved the better early chances and took the lead just before half time when Ross Frame headed in a Paul Griffiths corner at the near post.

Rhayader upped their game in the second half, but victory was secured when Frame, who earlier missed a terrific chance, capitalised on a defensive mistake when rounding two defenders to score.

Llanfair will now meet another Cymru Alliance side, Caerws, in the final, with the date and venue to be confirmed.

Llanfair are also going for glory in the league cup, and meet Penrhyncoch in the semi-final at Machynlleth on Tuesday, May 5. Llanrhaeadr take on Bow Street at Carno in the other semi-final on Friday, May 1, with both ties kicking off at 6.30pm.

Football Latest from the local leagues – P46

Rugby Union Rampant Eagles fly to win – P47

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Shantry and Aussie in for Oswestry

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

COUNTY star Jack Shantry and Aussie batsman Michael Johnson provide Oswestry's cricketers with a double boost ahead of their tough season's opener at home to Walsall on Saturday (12noon).

admits is a shot in the arm for the club.

"We're unsure how many games he'll be free to play for us, we're hoping it will be six or seven, but every game will be a bonus," said Robinson.

"It's great that Jack can play for us in the first week, as we could hardly have tougher opponents than Walsall in our first game."

"They have won the Birmingham League premier division title four times in the last nine years, but one bad season saw them relegated last time around."

The 6ft 4ins Shantry played a major role last

year in helping Worcestershire gain promotion from division two of the County Championship.

As well as being a regular wicket-taker in First Class cricket, he is also no mean batsman – as his unbeaten century against Surrey last September showed.

Australian batsman Michael Johnson, who was a full-time professional with Worcestershire two years ago, will also be making his Oswestry debut and is expected to bat in the top four.

The hosts will be without all-rounders Joe Carrasco, who is likely to be out through injury for about four weeks, and Elliott Bowen, who is working.

Three new signings in at Cae Glas

CAE Glas have bagged three new signings ahead of the forthcoming season in the Shropshire Cricket League division two which gets under way with Saturday's trip to Willey, writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

Seam bowler Sammyn Gnanaswlan Ponnapalampam, off-spinner Tarik Bodasing and Ollie Pope, a middle order batsman, are all added to last season's squad that has been shaping up with nets for six consecutive weeks at Ellesmere College.

Ponnapalampam and Pope are set to get an early chance this weekend as some of the team will miss the first fortnight of the campaign as they are in the West Indies, following England's fortunes in the Test series.

Last year's star performers; Ruch Nimanatha and Tom Gardner are not available for the opening game, but Gardner is back in contention for the second week along with Barry Richards, recently back from China.

Knee surgery

After missing the first game, Ben Hippiss will also return the following week after recent knee surgery, and captain Keith Yapp admitted: "Competition will be strong this season once we get over the first four weeks."

WELSHPOOL, who along with Montgomery, were relegated to division two last year following a dramatic final day of the season, will be hoping for improved fortunes this term when they start at Wellington III on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Montgomery on their travels to Bishop's Castle and Ellesmere entertain Church Stretton in the same division.

Frankton will be looking to build on last season's efforts in the premier division when they open their campaign at Broseley, and Knockin and Kinnerley launch their division one season with a short trip to Alberbury.

Jones: Young side can bounce back

BERRIEW boss Dave Jones is coming to terms with his side's demotion from the Spar Mid Wales League division one – and believes the current crop of players is good enough to make a swift return.

Three sides are likely to drop down to the second division, with the Rhiewsiders – who have now finished their fixtures – second from bottom.

"Obviously it is a very disappointing end to what has been a difficult season," said the former Welshpool manager.

"It started with a number of players leaving shortly before the start of the season, which caught us on the hop a bit."

"Since I took over we have persisted with a young side who have done exceptionally well in the circumstances."

"They are a good bunch of lads who, while they may lack a bit physically at the moment, are very good players."

He added: "Obviously the club will be looking to bounce straight back into division one."

"If I am still in charge then, while I'd like to add a few new faces I believe that the group of young lads we have got are good enough to bring us back up."

START NEW RUN SAYS TNS BOSS

CRAIG HARRISON insists The New Saints will be doubly determined to finish their campaign in style after losing their unbeaten record with just two games remaining.

The Welsh Premier champions missed a chance of rewriting the record books after suffering their first defeat in all competitions when edged out 1-0 at Airbus UK last Saturday.

That reverse denied the Saints the prospect of becoming the first side to lift the Welsh domestic treble while going through the season without losing. But manager Harrison says the "pressure's off" as his side prepare for Sunday's last league game at Bala Town (1pm) before taking on Newtown in the final of the Welsh Cup the following weekend.

"You know at some point you're going to lose, but the disappointing thing was that we came so close with just two games to go," he said.

"It was a fantastic record, and I couldn't be any prouder. It was not the result we wanted, but to have our first defeat after 40 or so games is an outstanding achievement by everyone at the club."

"We can be proud of everything we have done, winning the League and the Word Cup, and we've still got the Welsh Cup final to come."

Rotate

"It's now given us a bit of prod for the last two games; the extra pressure of going unbeaten is now off and we want to finish the season well and start another run. When you've lost you want to bounce back straight away."

With the Welsh Cup looming against Newtown the following week, Harrison is certain to rotate his squad for Sunday's televised clash with a Bala side chasing the runners-up spot.

"I'll be looking to give more game time to some of the team who have not played as much as they would have liked," he said.

"We've got such a strong squad that we can do that without weakening the team, and it will give some of the players the opportunity to stake their case for the Welsh Cup final."

Although the Saints were below their best at Airbus, Harrison felt a draw would have been fair. "I don't think anyone really deserved to win, but we have to put it behind us and move on," said Harrison, who felt "sloppy" play brought about the Airbus goal.

"After that we came to life and had a good chance to get a draw at the end," he added. "But there are no excuses."

Eagles fly for Isle of Man win



The Oswestry rugby players before heading for the airport after their win on the Isle of Man

OSWESTRY ended the season in memorable fashion after pulling off a successful coup on the Isle of Man to return from Vagabonds with a 29-10 success in rugby's South Lanes and Cheshire Two

After swamping lowly Ashton on Mersey 72-3 the previous week to guarantee a fourth place finish, Oswestry made the trip across the water to tackle their Douglas hosts in good spirits.

After a 7.30am start, before flying out from Liverpool, the Eagles were soon in the ascendancy as they showed aggression and style to shock their strong hosts with a well worked try

in the corner by James Booth giving them the lead, with Fin Grogan converting to make the score 7-0 within two minutes of the start.

"It was a fantastic finish to a magnificent game of rugby and a memorable trip back to Gravine Park where we were welcomed back by the club," said first team manager Martin Ord.

"It was another coup on the Isle of Man, and we now look forward to the next season, train hard and hope to get nearer to the top of this Cheshire League."

Report – page 47

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